

Delegation of SLOVENIA

**Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction,
Intersessional Work Programme 2000-2001,
7 December 2000, Geneva**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Following today's topic, let me inform briefly on the situation in Slovenia.

National stockpile destruction programme, planned and executed by the Ministry of Defence, is well underway.

Out of 171.898 stockpiled mines, around 10 percent have been already destroyed. Alone this year 12.790 mine have been destroyed and next week additional batch of 4.000 mines will be destroyed. Till the end of March 2001 another 10.000 mines destruction is planned.

All new data for this calendar year, along with November and December 1999 data, will of course be dully reported under Article 7 transparency measures format by April 2001.

Methods used under destruction programme are decomposition to components, mechanical destruction of inert components, destruction of primer caps by burning in a special kettle and destruction of APM's bodies containing explosive charges by explosive.

I would like to emphasise that during this year special attention was devoted to the minimalisation of every possible harmful effects to the environment at the destruction site, called Pocek, so that Slovenian public in general and local public in the vicinity of destruction site can be assured of the highest safety and environmental standards.

As concerns the antipersonnel-mines retained for use in development of techniques of demining and for training in accordance with Article 3, I would like to inform that the initially reported number of 7.000 mines will be substantially decreased to a number around 1.500 mines to be retained after the year 2003.

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Delegates

I would like to use this opportunity to reassure you of Slovenia's strongest support to the objectives of international mine action, which represents one of the more important, practical and effective humanitarian projects of our time, being at the same time an indispensable component of the evolving concept of human security.

Thank you