

Distinguished co-chairmen,

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The Romanian delegation would like to congratulate you for your achievements leading the Antipersonnel Landmines Stockpile Committee. We would like to ensure you once again of our full support joining the common efforts for antipersonnel landmines stockpiles destruction.

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Romania signed the Ottawa Convention on 3 Dec 1997. The efforts that were to be done to destroy the stockpiles and the difficulties in finding alternatives means delayed the ratification.

Determined to join the international efforts on 15 November 2000 the Romanian Parliament ratified the Convention by Law. No.204 and on 30 Nov 2000 the instruments of ratification were deposited.

On 1 May 2001 the Ottawa Convention entered into force for Romania.

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The legal and administrative framework for the implementation comprises:

- the Ratification Law;
- a draft Government Decision elaborated by Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is on the way to be adopted. The Decision draws the necessary restrictions at national level and also coordinates the implementation by an "Interdepartmental Working Group";
- Minister Orders, Decisions and Dispositions are guiding the implementation within the involved ministries. For example in MOD it was issued a Minister of Defence Order to manage the stockpile destruction. A Chief of the General Staff Technical Disposition establishes the destruction conditions and procedures.

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Romania is free of minefields. So the main implementation efforts focused on the stockpile destruction.

The Ministry of Defense owns most of the APLs stockpiles. All the APLs in stocks were manufactured in Romania.

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During the preparation stage there were established the types of mines to be destroyed and a stockpile assessment was performed. The Ministry of Defense decided that it was able to destroy all the mines by its own capability. The preparation and planning of the stockpiles destruction comprised two main phases:

- destruction procedures establishment for each type of mine and cost assessment;
- development of the global plan for the APLs stockpiles destruction.

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Romanian stockpiles consisted of 1.076.629 APLs. The five mine types were: MAI – 2 fragmentation mine, MAI – 6 wooden blast mine, MAI – 68 and MAI 75 plastic blast mines and MSS – bounding fragmentation mine.

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The destruction procedures established that four types of mines will be dismantled and only MSS bounding fragmentation mine will be destroyed by open detonation.

The cost of destruction was estimated to an average value of 1.5 USD per mine, being more expensive for MSS.

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All destruction methods were tested and validated as concerning safety requirements. Environment protection provisions are fully observed. respected.

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The APLs stockpile destruction plan comprises the following main tasks:

- APLs transportation to the destruction sites;
- destruction personnel training;
- preparation of the means and facilities at the destruction sites;
- planning the destruction for each type of mine;
- 4000 mines will be kept for training
- identification of the best ways to recycle TNT and other materials resulted from the dismantling process;
- yearly budgeting;
- ensure monitoring and transparency.

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On 30 Aug 2001 in the firing range of Cislau was organized the first landmines destruction activity. On this occasion the of the Minister of Defense expressed in front of civilian society, military attachés and mass media representatives the MOD commitment regarding the antipersonnel landmines stockpile destruction process.

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On 18 July 2001 at the seminar “Understanding the Ottawa Convention” in Warsaw Romania presented for the first time its APLs stockpile.

Proving a complete transparency, Romania received at the end of September 2001 a team of experts from the Reay Group. Representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Industry and Resources briefed about the Ottawa Convention stage of implementation. During the visit the team was invited at a destruction site where the methods, means and facilities were presented.

In November 2001 Romania presented The Article 7 Report

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After the initial public activity, the stockpile destruction followed the established plan and until the beginning of January 2002 the destruction stage is:

MINE TYPE	MSS	MAI 75	MAI 68	MAI 6
Initial	4 2 6 6 0	6 6 8 1 1 1	1 3 5 3 4 3	1 1 5 9 8 8
Destroyed by MOD	6 0 5 9	8 4 0 0	5 5 0	1 7 1 0 5
Destroyed by MI		2 7 1 2 8		1 7 0
TOTAL DESTROYED	6 0 5 9	3 5 5 2 8	5 5 0	1 7 2 7 5
Article 3	2 0 0	3 0 0 0	4 0 0	2 0 0

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The destruction must be completed to May 2005, but as it is mentioned in the Article 7 Report issued by Romania the stockpile destruction is planned to be completed in March 2004.