

**Statement by Mme. Radu Horumba,
Head of the Delegation of**

ROMANIA

**At the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines
and on
Their Destruction**

September 16, 2003

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Mme. President,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of this session. I would like as well to extend our congratulations to H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for the assumption of the presidency of the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention and to assure of the full support and cooperation of Romania.

Mme. President,

I would like also to take this opportunity to join other delegations in expressing our appreciation to Ambassador Jean Lint for the skillful manner he discharged the mandate of President of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties and for his dedicated efforts to implement the President Program of Action.

Mme. President,

Romania has aligned itself with the intervention of the Distinguished Ambassador of Italy on behalf of the European Union and fully supports the positions of the European Union.

Mme. President,

This meeting is due to adopt decisions on the preparatory process of the First Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention, an important milestone in our international commitment to eliminate forever the inhuman plague of anti-personnel mines.

This important step stands on the successful achievement on March 1, 2003, of the first deadlines for completion of stockpiles destruction in accordance to article 4 of the Convention.

This date marks an important political moment, as it did confirm the integrity of the Convention and proved the strength of the commitments of the States Parties to a fundamental humanitarian objective : a world without anymore victims of anti-personnel mines.

This date has also an important and concrete significance for the field of real disarmament, as more than 30 millions anti-personnel mines had been disposed and this numer is growing steadily.

Moreover, the large participation to the constructive debates at the Standing Committee for Stockpile Destruction Meetings, which I had the privilege to co-chair with the Distinguished colleague from Switzerland, Mme. René Haug, indicate an undiminished interest by the States Parties to comply with this fundamental obligation, in many cases in advance with their 4 years deadline provided for by the Convention.

Mme. President,

In this context, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Romania to conclude its stockpile destruction on March 1, 2003, more than one year before its official dealdline of May 1, 2005. This national commitment was confirmed again by the Interdepartamental Working Group, established in accordance with the Decision of the Government of Romania no. 1326 on implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, issued on December 4, 2002.

Mme. President,

Romania acknowledges and recognises the importance of the regional approach to the achievement of the objectives of the Mine Ban Convention, as well as the contribution of this concept in addressing the different challanges in front of us in the process of implementation of the Convention.

Romania welcomes the recent developments in South East Europe, in particular the ratification of the Convention by Greece, Turkey and the Serbia and Montenegro.

Romania is looking forward to welcoming these countries as full fledged member of our community of State Parties as soon as possible, in order to bring the contribution of all South Eastern European countries to the universalization goal of the Mine Ban Convention.

Mme. President,

Before concluding I would like to recall the position of Romania on the complementarity of the Mine Ban Convention and the Amended Protocol II of the CCW .

I have the great honour, Mme. President, to inform that the instrument of accession of Romania to Amended Protocol II was deposited to the UN Secretary General on August 25, 2003, along with the instruments of accession to the Protocol IV and to the Amended Article 1 of the CCW, following to the adoption of the ratification law by the Parliament on June 27, 2003.

In acting so, Romania honours the commitment undertaken in the Preamble of Mine Ban Convention and brings proof of its continuous commitment to contribute to the efforts of the international community for a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Thank you, Mme. President