

Presentation by Bangladesh to the Standing Committee on Stock Pile Destruction of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling Production and transfer of Anti- -Personnel Mines and their Destruction

Compiled and collated by the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN Offices and International Organizations in Geneva on the occasion of the Meeting of the Standing Committees established by the State Parties to the APM Convention
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Stock Pile Destruction

- Stockpile destruction is a core component of mine action and is defined as the physical destructive procedure towards a continual reduction of the national stockpile .
- Transparency of the destruction Programme is an important security and confidence building measure.
- The APM Convention does not define what constitutes “ destruction” . The term has been interpreted by States Parties broadly to include a number of different approaches ,among others dismantling, crushing and recycling as well as physical detonation.

- The selection of the most suitable techniques or technology by a national authority will depend primarily on the resources available , the physical condition and quantity of the stockpile , the national capacity and the applicable environmental and explosives legislation (according to IMAS)
- We are very much aware of the importance of transparency of the destruction program and its impact on security and confidence building. In this context we have reported the exact number of APMs that has been destroyed under the annual transparency report

Bangladesh and APM Stockpile Destruction

- Bangladesh became a signatory to the APM Convention on 7th May,1998 and as the first South Asian Country she ratified the Convention on 6th September,2000.
- In line with her commitments under the APM Convention Bangladesh has taken action in the following areas (a) national legislation (b) stockpile destruction (c) transparency on retention levels (d) participation at relevant meetings
- Under article 7.1 Bangladesh for the period 25th March2004 till 28Febrary ,2005 reported that an amount of 1,89,227 stockpiled APM has been destroyed .
- Bangladesh also achieved the distinction to report during this period that “no mine areas existed in Bangladesh” and “no areas are suspected to contain mines in Bangladesh “

Quantity of APM Destroyed :Stockpile Destruction List

Mine AP NDP-2 (Pakistan) -	22, 145
Mine AP (NM) M-14 (USA/India) -	3 , 100
Mine AP M-16 (T6) Fuze M605(USA)	5, 046
Mine AP Elec M-18 (A-1) Iran	348
Mine AP PMA-3 (former Yugoslavia)	1,06,221
<u>Mine AP T-69 (China)</u>	<u>52,367</u>
Total	1,89,227

Source : Bangladesh reporting for time period from 25 March2004 till 28th February,2005

• A minimum possible number of mines have been retained for training and permitted activities under the APM Convention . State parties are permitted under the APM Convention to retain some APM for the development of , and training in mine detection , mine clearance or mine destruction techniques and to transfer an unlimited number of amount for the purposes of destruction.

• A minimum number of APMs has been retained since we are aware of the provision under Article 3 which says that the amount of such mines shall not exceed the minimum number necessary for the above mentioned purposes. Necessary precaution has been taken to ensure that these mines for training are kept in a safe and secure condition.

Quantity of Mine retained

1. MINE APNDP2(Pakistan) -400
- 2.MINE AP(NM) M14(USA/INDIA)-380
3. Mine APM 16 (T6)USA-300
- 4.MINE AP Electric M18A1(IRAN)-2499
- 5.MINE APPMA-3 (FMR Yugoslavia)-5,600
6. Mine AP T-69 (China)-5820

Grand Total – 14,999

- At the past meetings of the State Parties including the important Nairobi 5th MSP in 2004 , Bangladesh reiterated her commitment to implement the provisos of Article 4 regarding stockpile destruction within the stipulated four year period.
- For Bangladesh, the Convention came into force on 7th March 2001 i.e. six months after the deposit of the instrument of ratification . So we sincerely made efforts to successfully complete the destruction of the APM stockpile by March,2005. This was duly reported in annual transparency report .
- However even before the stipulated four year time limit , Bangladesh welcomed as interim measures moratorium and other restrictions already declared by other states.

The process of destruction

- Coordination meetings attended by relevant ministries and agencies of the GOB were organized long before. The meetings looked into all the aspects for fulfilling our obligations under the APM Convention.
- The destruction has been carried out in safe designated areas at the Central Ammunition Depot. Both electric and non-electric methods of destruction have been used.
- Destruction process have been carried out usually in three phases that is as follows:
In phase I the APM s were collected , centralized and prepared for destruction .In phase II the destruction sites were prepared and the mines were transported .In phase III the destruction process was carried out.

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- The destruction process has been carried out in a secured demolition facility of the Central Ammunition Depot of the Bangladesh Armed Forces .
- Applicable safety standards : The demolition covers a reasonable area and is away from human habitation. Fire fighting facilities are available on site. Before the destruction necessary coordination with local administration ,police and other relevant agencies were made .
- Applicable environment standards : Necessary precautions were taken so there is no threat to environmental degradation . The designated area was carefully prepared so that no threat exists for environmental degradation . The site has been exclusively dedicated for demolition purposes.

- We are thankful for the assistance provided by the Government of Canada through UNDP for completing stockpile destruction. Before the stockpile destruction was completed a technical needs assessment mission undertook a visit to Dhaka . A project was initiated under the auspices of the Canadian Government for completing the stockpile destruction process. All possible cooperation was extended for carrying out the destruction process
- Special mention also have to be made of the good work done by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian De-mining for promoting and contributing towards our efforts for the successful completion of the process of stockpile destruction.

Some possible elements for ensuring timely completion

- Predictability and sustainability of funding for those having clearly demonstrated needs.
- Technical assistance including advice, training and aiding the capacity building process
- Encourage other parties to learn through the sharing of knowledge and experience from the state parties who have successfully carried out their stockpile destruction programs
- Explore other sources to complement current efforts like cooperation among relevant countries and parties
- Strong and vigorous follow up with the countries who are nearing completion of the stockpile destruction process and urge others to complete Stockpile destruction within the stipulated time period.

Concluding remarks

- In the international arena, Bangladesh actively pursues issues related to international peace and security . We believe that the issue may be viewed from a holistic perspective taking the need to take into account to link arms control and disarmament ,post conflict peace building efforts and wherever necessary socio-economic development as well as the promotion of a culture of peace to create a congenial climate for peace and stability.
- Thank you .