

**Notes for ICRC intervention on "Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation"**

**Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction  
Monday 25 May 2009**

Thank you Madam Co-Chair.

We would like to start by thanking those States that have provided an update today on the status of their plans to destroy their stocks of anti-personnel mines. In particular, we congratulate Ethiopia on having completed the destruction of its stockpile before its deadline.

However, with only one year left until its 2010 deadline, we remain very concerned about the significant stock of PFM mines that remains to be destroyed by one State Party. We urge Ukraine, as well as the European Commission, to consider at the highest political levels how they might proceed to get stockpile destruction of the remaining PFM mines underway before the Second Review Conference.

We appreciate the updates provided by Greece, Turkey and Belarus on their efforts to rectify their failure to comply with their Article 4 deadline. In this regard, we welcome the announcement that Belarus and the European Commission have resumed their cooperation with the goal of destroying the Belarusian stockpile of PFM mines. This positive development demonstrates that difficult challenges in this area can be addressed. However, it is of crucial importance that this positive momentum is maintained and that no effort is spared to accelerate the process in the coming months so that Belarus will be in a position to announce, by the Second Review Conference, a schedule for completing its stockpile destruction obligation.

With regard to the other two States Parties that have not yet complied with their Article 4 obligations, we appreciate the additional information provided on their stockpile destruction process. We welcome Turkey's report that it destroyed almost 1 million mines in 2008, and that it has now destroyed over 1.6 million mines to date. At the Ninth Meeting of States Parties, Turkey stated that it hoped to complete destruction at the earliest possible stage in 2010. In light of this statement, we hope that Turkey will be able to announce at the Second Review Conference that it is close to completion, or have indeed completed its obligations under Article 4.

In the case of Greece, we are concerned about the pace of the destruction process and the fact that it will be unable to comply with its obligations within the time period previously indicated. We hope that determined efforts will be made to rectify this situation, to establish plans for the completion of its obligations within a realistic and set timeframe, and to finish its destruction at the earliest possible date.

We urge all States Parties, and in particular the concerned States, to do their utmost to address the challenges the Convention is facing at present in ensuring compliance with States' obligations under Article 4. We hope that progress in the implementation of stockpile destruction by all States with remaining obligations in this area can be recorded by the Second Review Conference.

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