

Cyprus

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**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR THE PROCESS OF ACTION IN
IMPLEMENTING THE OTTAWA CONVENTION (Article 5)**

Ottawa Convention, Meeting of the Standing Committees Geneva, 25-29 May 2009

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour for the Republic of Cyprus to be present once again, at the Meeting of the Standing Committees in Geneva, which is obviously linked to the common task of building a safer world, through the eradication of antipersonnel mines.

Since our last briefing of the participating States in June 2008, the Republic of Cyprus has proceeded with steady steps in fulfilling its obligations, according to the working program of our National Plan, but also in strict compliance with the provisions of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention.

The progress up to date, involves the destruction of an additional 392 Antipersonnel mines, which were removed from 2 minefields of the National Guard in 2008. The work that remains, according always to the time schedule cited in our National plan, concerns the destruction of 3.224 antipersonnel mines laid in 10 final minefields. Of course, these areas are **under the effective control** of the Republic of Cyprus, and must be cleared from AP mines by the 1st of July 2013.

Overall, progress concerning the destruction of AP mines is not impeded by any circumstances. In this framework, all activities are continuously monitored and regulated, up to the point of successful disposal. All demining teams are supported technically and financially, whilst new technical means are easily acquired if necessary. The same demining methodology has been implemented from the beginning and proves to be doing well.

The Republic of Cyprus does not require any external assistance as far as demining and destruction activities are concerned. Moreover, we can assure all participating States, that the demining activities within the minefields under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, will be completed according to the stated deadlines. This commitment is already evident for the Republic of Cyprus, as far as stockpiled AP mines are concerned.

Concluding, Mr. President, the Republic of Cyprus through the National Guard, has supplied a number of stockpiled mines (2 A/T ,6 A/P), for training purposes to the UN Mine Action Center in Cyprus(MAC-C), which is responsible for supervising the demining operations in the buffer zone.

Thank you for your attention.

14 May 2009