

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

22 JUNE 2015

1. In the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that “each State Party that has missed its deadline for the completion of its Article 4 obligations will provide to the States Parties, through the President, by 31 December 2014, a plan for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction as soon as possible, and thereafter keep the States Parties apprised of efforts to implement its plan through annual transparency reports and other means.”¹ On 4 December 2014, the Presidency of the Third Review Conference wrote to the three States Parties concerned – Belarus, Greece and Ukraine – to remind them of this commitment.
2. Belarus, on 29 December 2014, provided information noting the technical complexity associated with destroying the PFM type mine, and that, as of 3 November 2014, 3,370,316 mines remained to be destroyed. Belarus further reported that, according to estimation of the company Explosivos Alaveses SA (EXPAL), all mines, apart from those considered being in an unsafe condition, will be destroyed by 1 November 2016 by EXPAL. The President observed that Belarus had acted in a transparent manner in response to Action #5 of the Maputo Action Plan. In noting that Belarus reiterated its commitment to its Convention obligations and to pursuing all means to ensure compliance with Article 4 as soon as possible, the President further observed that Belarus may wish to confirm that all mines considered to be in an unsafe condition by EXPAL will also be destroyed by 1 November 2016.
3. Greece, on 31 December 2014, provided information noting that, on 1 October 2014, an explosion occurred at the facilities of the company in Bulgaria contracted to destroy Greece’s mines and that work has been suspended indefinitely. Greece further indicated that it is reviewing all possible options in an effort to adhere to its initial intention to complete the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2015. Greece reported that a total of 690,351² anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed. The President observed that Greece had acted in a transparent manner in response to Action #5 of the Maputo Action Plan. The President further observed that the explosion at the facilities of the company contracted to destroy the mines could affect Greece’s original aim of destroying all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2015 and that clarity on this matter by Greece would be welcomed. The President also noted that, as the anti-personnel mines owned by Greece had been transferred to the territory of another State Party – to Bulgaria – for the purposes of destruction by the company VIDEX, Bulgaria may also be able to provide clarity on the status of the mines that had been transferred.
4. Ukraine, on 29 December 2014, indicated that “the Ukrainian side plans to present all the information available regarding the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction during the Meeting of Experts of States Parties to the APLC to be held in 2015.” The President observed that, while Ukraine did not act in accordance with the timelines contained in the Action #5 of the Maputo Action Plan, providing – as soon as possible – a plan for

¹ Maputo Action Plan, Action #5.

² While Greece had reported 690,353 anti-personnel mines in the information provided on 31 December 2014, Greece later corrected this to read 690,351.

the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines under its control or jurisdiction would be welcomed.

5. In the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that “each State Party in the process of destroying its stockpiled anti-personnel mines will regularly communicate to the States Parties, through annual transparency reports and other means, plans to fulfil its obligations and progress achieved, highlighting as early as possible any issues of concern.”³ As of 19 May 2015, the following States Parties provided updated information on the total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by them, or under their jurisdiction or control, and / or on anti-personnel mines transferred for the purposes of destruction, and / or the status of programmes for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and / or on the types and quantities of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed: Belarus, Bulgaria, Finland, Greece and Poland.
6. Belarus reported that 2,862,068 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 1 January 2015, that cumulative total of 806,307 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed by 1 January 2015. Information was provided on the quantity and lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine.
7. Bulgaria reported that 500,590 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been transferred from Greece to Gorni Lom, Bulgaria for the purposes of destruction. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Bulgaria has reported that the institution authorised by Bulgaria to receive the transfer was VIDEX JSC.
8. Finland reported that 21,052 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 31 December 2014, and that, during the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2014, 1,005,109 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine. Finland also provided information on the methods used in the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the location of destruction sites. The President observed that Finland may wish to provide clarity regarding whether the 21,052 stockpiled anti-personnel mines reported by Finland included 16,500 anti-personnel mines that Finland had reported having retained for permitted purposes.
9. Greece reported that 690,351 stockpiled anti-personnel mines remained to be destroyed as of 31 December 2014, that 500,590 stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been transferred to Bulgaria for the purposes of destruction in 2014, that of these 500,590 mines 262,934 had been destroyed in 2014, and that, in total to date, 877,816 have been destroyed. Information was provided on the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine.
10. Poland reported that information on stockpiled anti-personnel mines that remained to be destroyed, its programme for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the types and quantities of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed since entry into force was the same as that provided in 2013. In 2013, Poland reported that there were 16,597 PSM-1-type stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by Poland, or under its jurisdiction or control as of 1 June 2013. In 2013, Poland further reported that the process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines had started in 2011, that all remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been gathered in five central storage facilities in 2013, and that a contractor for the destruction of the mines would be chosen in 2014. The President observed that, as no additional information was furnished in 2015 on the status of Poland’s programme for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, an update provided by Poland would be welcomed.

³ Maputo Action Plan, Action #6.

11. The President observed that Ukraine did not provide updated transparency information in 2015, covering calendar year 2014, on the total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, and / or on anti-personnel mines transferred for the purposes of destruction, and / or the status of programmes for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines and / or on the types and quantities of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed.
12. The President observed that, on the basis of updated transparency information provided by States Parties in 2015, or from information previously provided, the following is understood to be the quantity of anti-personnel mines destroyed and to be destroyed by each of Belarus, Finland, Greece, Poland and Ukraine, and the targeted date for the completion of implementation of Article 4 of the Convention:

	Number of mines destroyed	Number of mines remaining to be destroyed	Projected completion date
Belarus	806,307	2,862,068	By 1 November 2016
Finland	1,005,109	21,052	By the end of 2015
Greece	877,816	690,351 ⁴	By the end of 2015 ⁵
Poland	1'042'386	16'957	Well before the 2017 deadline
Ukraine	1'208'371	5'584'371	Unknown

13. In the Maputo Action Plan, it was agreed that “each State Party which discovers previously unknown stockpiles after stockpile destruction deadlines have passed will inform the States Parties as soon as possible, report pertinent information as required by the Convention, and destroy these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgent priority and no later than six months after the report of their discovery.”⁶ As of 19 May 2015, the following State Party provided updated information on previously unknown stockpiled mines that had been discovered and / or destroyed in 2014: Afghanistan.
14. Afghanistan reported that a total of 1,318 previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines had been destroyed in 2014. The President observed that destruction of previously unknown stockpiled anti-personnel mines has been reported by Afghanistan as having occurred every year since entry into force and that, as such, the States Parties may benefit from Afghanistan providing additional details on this particular persistent implementation challenge that it faces.
15. The President observed that some States Parties report anti-personnel mines retained for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention as “stockpiled anti-personnel mines.” The President observed that, to ensure clarity and avoid double counting, anti-personnel mines retained for permitted purposes should not be reported as “stockpiled anti-personnel mines” and should be reported separately.

⁴ It is understood that 237,656 of these mines have been transferred to the company VIDEX JSC, which is located in Bulgaria.

⁵ On 31 December 2014, Greece indicated that it is reviewing all possible options in an effort to adhere to its initial intention to complete the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2015.

⁶ Maputo Action Plan, Action #7.