



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(28 November – 1 December 2016)

Statement on Stockpile Destruction

Santiago, 1 December 2016

Mr. President,¹

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising the United Nations entities involved in mine action.²

Article 4 on stockpile destruction is one of the success stories of this Treaty, with 157 out of 162 States Parties no longer holding stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and having destroyed over 48 million mines since the Convention came into force. The United Nations applauds the efforts and commitment of States Parties to achieve the objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Nonetheless, the United Nations strongly urges States Parties to provide assistance and thus accelerate compliance of the five remaining States Parties³, three⁴ of whom have missed their deadline for Article 4 implementation. This cooperation and assistance, whether offered or sought, between State Parties may include exchange of material and technological information, as well as experiences and best practices.

¹ Heraldo Muñoz, Foreign Minister of Chile

² The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).

³ Belarus, Greece, Oman, Poland, and Ukraine are the States Parties in the process of implementing Article 4.

⁴ Belarus, Greece and Ukraine have missed their Article 4 implementation deadline.



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Under UNMAS Chairmanship and with secretarial support of the GICHD, the United Nations together with mine action partners developed the International Mine Action Standards and the Guide for the Destruction of Stockpiled Anti-Personnel Mines. Those tools made available to state parties and non-state parties alike, may be considered as guiding principles to develop national mine action authorities, as well as establishing national mine action standards to secure stockpile destruction efforts.

A “2025 Mine-Free World” is not just a world free of minefields, it is also a world free of anti-personnel mine stockpiles. Stockpiles pose a variety of threats to all of us. Poor management of unsecured stockpiles is a threat to civilians, as their illicit trade allows armed non-state actors to wreak havoc. Therefore, the United Nations calls upon all States Parties to comply with their international legal obligations and destroy their stockpiles.

Thank you.