



## United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

### 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

#### Statement on Stockpile Destruction

Geneva, 3 December 2015

*Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS*

Mr. President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)<sup>1</sup>, comprising United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Thank you for your preliminary observations regarding the status of stockpile destruction.

As declared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his last report on Assistance in Mine Action, with the considerable support of the United Nations, over 47.1 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed, and 157 States Parties (97 percent) no longer hold stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

The United Nations welcomes the announced completion of destruction of anti-personnel landmines stockpiles from Finland. Relevant States Parties should endeavour to comply with Article 4 obligations at the earliest possible time.

The United Nations is ready to assist countries striving to meet their Article 4 deadlines, countries where stockpiles have been found after completion, and countries requiring the conduction of stockpiles assessments.

For example, UNMAS contributes globally to stockpile destruction efforts in mine affected states through its humanitarian mine action activities as well as its weapons and ammunition management programming. Through the management and deployment of explosive ordnance disposal teams, UNMAS has been assisting in Afghanistan, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and the Territory of Western Sahara.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).



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The United Nations takes this opportunity to acknowledge, once more, the commitment by the United States of America to cease the production and purchase of anti-personnel landmines.

Thank you.