



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

12th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Agenda item 10 (c)

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**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising 14 UN partners involved in mine action.

The destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines is a key disarmament obligation in the Convention, as well as an important confidence building measure. The early destruction of anti-personnel landmines also denies any possibility for these weapons to fall into the hands of actors for otherwise nefarious use.

Stockpile destruction is core to United Nations assistance. Currently, the United Nations is assisting South Sudan to be able to declare completion of this obligation as soon as possible. In Somalia, the latest state to join the Convention, identifying and destroying the stockpiles of antipersonnel mines will be a challenge. The United Nations, which is in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia, will continue to support their efforts.

The United Nations reiterates its view that stockpiles found after the deadline of four years established by Article 4 shall be destroyed as a matter of urgency and in compliance with the international mine action standards.

Furthermore, the United Nations encourages States Parties to assess their arsenals not only to ensure their safety and security but also as a way to establish the presence of antipersonnel mines among old arsenals.

For instance, in the context of the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations, together with les Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire and a civil society partner, destroyed 842 stockpiled antipersonnel mines. Also in Cote d'Ivoire, during a joint assessment with the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, thirty-six ammunition and weapons storage facilities were refurbished, out of sixty in the process of being improved.

A similar concern remains at the core of the UN's assessment of conventional weapons stockpiles currently conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Chad has recently requested a similar assessment from the United Nations.

In conducting this kind of activities we are assisting countries in identifying unknown stockpiles of antipersonnel mines.

The United Nations welcomes the updates by States Parties on this issue.

Thank you.