



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

13th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

Statement on Destroying Stockpiled Anti-personnel Mines Agenda item 11 (c) Geneva 5 December 2013

**Delivered 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), comprised of the United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

The destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines is one of the core humanitarian and disarmament goals of the Convention. Destroying stockpiles early ensures that they will never be used to indiscriminately kill or injure anyone.

Progress in compliance has been very encouraging in the past. More than 47 million stockpiled mines have been eliminated, and at least 150 State Parties officially declared that they do not, or do no longer hold stockpiles other than small quantities for training purposes permitted under Article 3.

Yet, the task of destruction is far from complete – in fact, it has become one of today's main challenges. The obligation to destroy stockpiled antipersonnel mines remains relevant in at least six state parties – some of which may hold great numbers of antipersonnel landmines – and large stockpiles are still maintained by several non-signatory states.

The United Nations urges the State Parties concerned to comply with their obligations, and stands ready to support those countries requiring assistance to destroy their stockpiles.

We are prepared to assist countries struggling to meet their Article 4 deadlines, countries where stockpiles have been found after completion, and countries requiring the conduction of stockpiles assessments.

One specific area where the United Nations is increasingly providing support is ammunition- and small arms stockpile management. Aging and fragile arsenals not only pose a risk for safety and security, but may also contain hidden antipersonnel mines among old arsenals.

In the Central African Republic for instance, the Mine Action Service conducted a technical threat assessment of the unsafe storage of weapons and ammunitions, destroyed stockpiles of over 11,000 munitions, and advised the government on improving security and control of their stockpiles. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an assessment of abandoned munitions stockpiles is ongoing.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Mine Action Service helped destroy ammunition stockpiles and recently found stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines. 1526 antipersonnel mines were destroyed and 292 kept for training purposes. The peacekeeping mission UNOCI continues to rehabilitate weapons and ammunitions storage facilities, and training the national authorities on that matter.

In conducting these kinds of activities we are assisting countries in identifying and destroying previously unknown stockpiles of antipersonnel mines.

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

Thank you.