

**Statement by Greece at the Third Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention  
Maputo (23-27.6.2014)**

Mr. President,

As it is the first time we take the floor, allow me to extend my Government's congratulations to you for the impeccable organization of this very important meeting in the field of Multilateral Disarmament. Indeed, as has been said, in this Third Review Conference, the Convention has gone back to its roots, from where it all started. And since then, great progress has been achieved, despite the significant challenges which remain ahead. Greece fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.

Since our last update during the Meeting of the Standing Committees in April, we would like to take this opportunity to inform the Review Conference of the progress that has been achieved by Greece in terms of Article 4 Implementation.

We are indeed pleased to announce that significant advances have been made in the destruction of Greece's stockpiled anti-personnel mines, in accordance with our obligations. The transfer by Greece of anti-personnel mines to a special facility in Bulgaria is well underway. As we speak, mines are being transferred and destroyed.

According to our official data, which are based on the Protocols of destruction which the Bulgarian company VIDEX provides us with, as of today, 239,112 anti-personnel mines have been transferred to Bulgaria and of these 107,058 DM-31 type mines have already been destroyed.

Mr. President,

To the run-up to this Conference, there have been long discussions concerning the need for a boost to the Convention, for a 'commitment to complete'. In this respect and while we agree with others that the various legally binding deadlines for completion are clearly stipulated in the text of the Convention, we also understand the argument for a political commitment of states parties aspiring to instill momentum into the Convention.

In this spirit and in reference to Greece's stockpile destruction, Greece is in a position to announce today that on the basis of the pace of destruction so far and the contractual obligations of the two companies involved in the transport and destruction process, namely Hellenic Defense Systems (EAS) and the Bulgarian subcontractor, "VIDEX", the destruction process should be completed by the end of 2015, notwithstanding, of course, any future unforeseen circumstances. More specifically, according to the estimate of the EAS, the transfer of stockpiled mines to Bulgaria should be completed by 18 August 2014, which is the date on which the initial contract will expire. Destruction will continue after this date,

according to the provisions of the standing contractual agreement, which provides for the possibility of an extension in the deadline for completion and in this respect, we would like to inform you that the EAS have already submitted a request to this effect.

Mr. President,

Despite challenges that we have encountered in fulfilling our obligation to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines, which pertained to financial constraints, contractual and legal issues, we have never wavered from our commitment to implement the Convention's obligations. From the outset, we have addressed the complications which have arisen with the utmost transparency and sincerity, in a spirit of collegial cooperation with the Article 4 coordinators, Norway and Poland, as well as with the ICRC and the ICBL. In addition we extend our sincere thanks to the head of the ISU, Mr. Brinkert Kerry and his team, for their ceaseless support throughout these years and for assisting us in presenting our case objectively.

We remain committed to the process, and will continue apace with our stockpile destruction effort, so that the remaining 714,173 mines are transported to and destroyed in Bulgaria within the timeframe we have provided above.

Finally, Mr. President, we are ready to answer questions which partners may have and provide clarification if required.

Thank you Mr. President.