



EMBASSY OF GREECE  
OSLO

**STATEMENT ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**  
**H.E. Ms Maria Diamanti, Ambassador of Greece in Oslo**

Mr President,

As it is the first time I take the floor under your Presidency, allow me to congratulate you personally, as well as the ISU, on the impeccable organization of this very important meeting in the field of Multilateral Disarmament and to assure you of our delegation's full support in your endeavors.

Mr President,

Recent complications emanating from environmental compliance issues have caused the temporary pause of the demilitarization process of the remaining amount of 343.413 APLMs.

The competent department of the Ministry of Defence and the Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS) are in close consultation to find the best possible solution to resolve this issue and set the destruction of the remaining stocks back on track. In this context, all possible solutions are being examined in order to fulfill our obligation as soon as possibly feasible.

Mr President,

From its inception, this forum has had the comparative advantage of adopting a purely humanitarian approach which has been preserved throughout the years, safeguarding in that way the credibility of the Convention. It is therefore important that we reiterate that the process of mine destruction and mine clearance is a very dangerous one which could, and has, lead to accidents and unfortunately to the loss of human life, as was the case in the deadly explosion at Videx facilities. Furthermore, we must take, as we do, the necessary measures and precautions to avoid the possibility of environmental pollution incidents.

Last but not least, I would like to stress that despite the challenges that we have encountered in fulfilling our obligation to destroy all the stockpiled APLMs, -challenges which are associated with financial constraints, unforeseen circumstances, contractual and legal issues- we have never wavered from our commitment to fulfill the Convention's obligations, and we have handled the issue with the utmost transparency and sincerity and, of course, we will continue to do so.

Thank you.