

**ICBL Statement on Stockpile Destruction  
Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel  
Mine Ban Convention  
25-29 November 2019**



Mr. President,

Stockpile destruction is one of the great success stories of the Mine Ban Treaty. Under the Mine Ban Treaty, a total of 93 States Parties have collectively destroyed more than 55 million antipersonnel landmines from their stocks, including more than 1.4 million mines during 2018.

Another 67 states have declared they never possessed any stocks of antipersonnel mines. Tuvalu is the only State Party that has not submitted an initial transparency report, but it is not known to possess any antipersonnel mines.

Currently, just three States Parties have stockpiled antipersonnel mines to destroy. Sri Lanka has committed to destroy its 78,000 stockpiled mines by the end of 2020, while Greece (with 643,000 mines) and Ukraine (with 3.5 million mines) remain in violation of Article 4 after repeatedly failing to complete stockpile destruction by their respective deadlines.

[[CHECK AGAINST THEIR ORAL REMARKS]] Neither Greece nor Ukraine have been able to declare when they will be able to complete the stockpile destruction obligation. Mr. President, we appreciate the correspondence and efforts you and other States Parties have made to encourage Greece and Ukraine to complete their outstanding stockpile destruction obligations.

Landmine Monitor estimates that as many as 30 of the 33 states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty stockpile a collective total of approximately 50 million mines today.

Non-state armed groups do not appear to be able to obtain significant numbers of factory-made antipersonnel mines now that production and transfers have largely halted under the Mine Ban Treaty. However, Landmine Monitor has identified groups in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen that possess antipersonnel mines, mostly improvised from locally-available

components. Use of these improvised antipersonnel mines in recent years has led to a sharp increase in the number of mine casualties globally.

A total of 71 States Parties have retained antipersonnel mines for training and research in detection and clearance techniques. Bangladesh, Finland, and Sri Lanka collectively possess nearly 50,000 retained antipersonnel mines. Another 36 states retain more than 1,000 mines each.

Cyprus, Nigeria, Senegal, and a few other states parties with mines retained under Article 3 have never used any for the permitted purposes and are, in effect, violating the nature of this exception, as they essentially are stockpiling the mines. States Parties should treat this as a compliance issue, including the involvement of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance.