



EMBASSY OF GREECE
OSLO

MEASURES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE
H.E. Ms Maria Diamanti, Ambassador of Greece in Oslo

Mr President,

Since its accession to the Mine Ban Treaty, Greece has spared no efforts to implement its contractual obligations. In this context, we completed mine clearance 4 ½ years ahead of the deadline set by Article 5, a task we consider of utmost importance from a humanitarian perspective.

With regard to the APLMs retained under Article 3, the Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS) has demilitarized 1.625 mines from the initial quantity of 7.224 that was declared in 2008, reducing thus the current training stockpile to 5.599 APLMs.

Moreover, Greece submits its annual transparency report well ahead of the deadline stipulated in Article 7 of the Convention and fulfils its financial obligations under Article 14 in a timely manner to ensure the sustainability of the meetings of the Convention.

Mr President, Dear colleagues,

Concerning our obligation emanating from Article 4, we would like to stress that Greece has ensured the destruction of the APLMs stockpile by having a contract in force with the Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS) for this purpose. In this context, we would like to underline that Greece has destroyed more than 1,2 million APLMs.

Greece has not yet entirely fulfilled its obligation due to unforeseen circumstances that are beyond its control, such as the deadly explosion in 2014 at VIDEX facilities and the legal dispute with the HDS which lead to a pause in the destruction process for almost 2 years.

The said reasons have been recognized, among others, and by you Mr President at your preliminary observations during the intercessional meetings last May, when you mentioned that the circumstances that have led Greece to miss its article 4 deadline are beyond its control.

In this regard, I would like to underline that Force Majeure, namely the circumstances that hinder a State's capability to perform its contractual obligations due to an event or effect that the parties could not have anticipated or control, is recognized by International Law.

Mr President,

Greece cannot agree with the recommendation to expand the mandate of the committee on Cooperative Compliance in order to address, among others, the stockpile destruction obligation.

The provisions of the Convention strictly stipulate that when a Member State considers that the information and clarifications provided by another State Party are not sufficient, raising questions with regard to compliance, it can submit a request for clarification according to the procedure stipulated in Article 8 of the Convention.

Therefore, adherence to the Convention, and particularly the implementation of Article 1.2 which at the present phase concerns only two State Parties, is adequately addressed by the provisions of the Convention, thus making any additional procedures cumbersome and unnecessary.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that Greece fully recognizes its obligation stemming from the Mine Ban Treaty and will continue to inform the States Parties in a transparent and sincere manner of the matter of Stockpile Destruction during the annual meetings of the Convention and will provide any clarification required according to the stipulated provisions and procedures of the Convention.

Thank you.