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ICRC Statement on Stockpile Destruction Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Maputo, 23-27 June 2014

The destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines has been one of the great successes of the Convention. Most States Parties previously holding stockpiles of antipersonnel mines have declared completion of stockpile destruction and collectively the States Parties have destroyed almost 46 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

The ICRC is pleased to hear from **Poland** and **Finland** regarding their progress in fulfilling their stockpile destruction obligations. Both countries are actively engaged in meeting their deadlines well ahead of time. However, we note the large number (16,500) of anti-personnel mines retained by Finland for training purposes and urge Finland to reconsider if this number represents the minimum number absolutely necessary for these purposes.

We wish to commend **Greece** and **Belarus** on the advances they have made in the destruction of their stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Progress is particularly encouraging in **Greece**, where stockpile destruction is finally underway and moving at a rapid pace. We are delighted by Greece's announcement that it should be able to fulfil its Article 4 obligations by the end of 2015. The news is also positive from **Belarus**, where, despite a slow start, large-scale stockpile destruction is now projected to begin soon. We understand it should be possible with the support of the European Commission to complete stockpile destruction in 2015. We hope this plan will be confirmed by 31 December 2014, as set out in the Maputo Action Plan.

We appreciate that the **Ukraine**, though unable to attend this Conference, nonetheless provided an update in regards to its stockpile destruction, in which it reaffirmed its commitment to the Convention. In addition to the developments reported with the destruction by the Ukraine of 576 PFM-1 mines in 2014, we welcome Germany's support, which allowed the destruction of over 300,000 PFM-1 mines in 2013 and which we understand is scheduled to continue in 2014.

While recognizing the constraints posed by the current situation in the Ukraine, we remain concerned about the delays in commencing the destruction of 3 million PFM-1 mines within the NATO Partnership for Peace Project and the lack of a plan to tackle the almost 3 million additional PFM-1 mines that are not part of the EC-funded programme. We hope that the Ukraine will be in a position to submit such a plan by 31 December 2014 in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan. We further regret that the Ukraine has been unable yet to destroy its stockpile of 149,096 POM-2 type mines and 605 OZM-4 type mines and call upon the Ukraine to commit to destruction of these anti-personnel mines as a matter of urgency.

Somalia must also fulfil its stockpile destruction obligations by 1 October 2016. In its Article 7 report last year, Somalia declared it was in the process of assessing whether any stocks remained in the hands of former militias and private individuals. We urge Somalia and its partners to pursue this process promptly and diligently and we look forward to seeing Somalia's latest Article 7 report and any other input bringing these assessments up to date.

The ICRC welcomes the call in the Maputo Action Plan for States Parties to continue to support each other with stockpile destruction, in order for any remaining obstacles to be overcome and for the destruction process to be realized with urgency.