

Stockpile ~~destruction~~ *destruction*

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Norwegian statement on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Thank you, President.

Article 3 is our guarantee against proliferation and future use of cluster munitions. The physical destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions also sends a powerful signal to the general public that the Convention works. In the Convention we have given ourselves 8 years to complete stockpile destruction, and experience so far just one year after entry into force, shows that this timeframe is both realistic and adequate. The key to success is to start as soon as possible rather than wait for the deadline to approach. The Beirut Progress Report and presentations made here by states with large stockpiles demonstrate that stockpile destruction within the initial eight-year deadline may be less problematic than feared by many during the negotiations.

Some states with article 3 obligations have indicated a possible need for international cooperation and assistance to destroy their stockpiles. For such assistance to be effective, it is essential that projects and plans are concrete and tailored to meet the specific challenges that individual states face. Further it is important that they explore the gains of technical cooperation both on international and on regional levels, and with international organisations and with competent NGOs. Norway gives a high priority to stockpile destruction and we are interested in working with partners to ensure completion of a state's Article 3 obligations, and we welcome proposals to this effect.

With the information on stockpiles by current and future States parties available, we believe that the main challenge in the effort to destroy stockpiles within the initial deadline will not be technical concerns, but to ensure the political will to start the destruction process.



President,

Article 3.6 allows for the retention or acquisition of cluster munitions for training and research purposes. Norway believes that this is unnecessary as these needs can be met through other means than live cluster munitions. However, since some States Parties have chosen to exercise this option, we would like to underline the importance of the corresponding transparency measures set out in Article 3.8. These require States Parties that have retained cluster munitions to submit annual detailed reports on the planned and actual use of these cluster munitions and their submunitions as well as detailed identification data of the cluster munitions retained. The purpose of this to ensure transparency on the rationale for and the necessity of the retention of cluster munitions. Such transparency is crucial to avoid any suspicion that the retention option is exercised for any other purpose than those explicitly described in article 3.6, and for ensuring that the amount retained or acquired does not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary. We look forward to receiving such transparency reports, and in the meantime encourage all States Parties with stockpiles to destroy all their cluster munitions as part of their Article 3 implementation.

Thank you.