



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
GENEVA



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

To delegations participating
in the 2012 intersessional meeting
of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

26 March 2012

**Re: CCM intersessional meeting, session on “Stockpile destruction and retention”,
18 April 2012**

Dear participants,

Croatia and Germany are honoured to serve as Coordinators of the CCM Working Group on Stockpile Destruction and Retention in 2012. In preparation of the upcoming informal intersessional meeting, we would like to draw your attention to the session of the Working Group which is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 April 2012, from 10:00 to 13:00.

At the 2010 First Meeting of States Parties, the Vientiane Action Plan was adopted. In the Vientiane Action Plan, the following commitments as concerns the obligation to destroy cluster munition stockpiles were made:

- to endeavour to, within one year of entry into force for that State Party, have a plan in place for the destruction of stocks that includes a timeline and budget and begin physical destruction as soon as possible. (Action #8).
- to ensure that problems that may cause obstacles to planned destruction are disclosed in a timely manner to States Parties and relevant organizations in situations where assistance is required to meet stockpile destruction obligations. (Action #9).

The meeting on 18 April provides an opportunity for all States Parties with cluster munition stockpiles to present brief updates on their destruction programmes. We would appreciate interventions concentrating on the following questions:

- What progress has been achieved since the Second Meeting of States Parties in Beirut?
- What is your expected completion date?

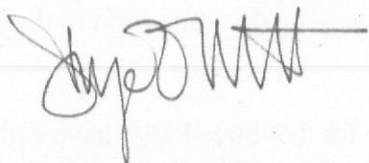
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For signatory States, the meeting provides an opportunity to demonstrate their continued commitment to join the Convention as soon as possible and to contribute to the overall implementation of Article 3. We would much appreciate continued strong participation of signatory States in the information exchange on national stockpile destruction programmes. In this regard we would also encourage the views and information from states signatories to the Convention, in relation to challenges identified that would be considered obstacles in the realisation of completion with reference to stockpile destruction obligations and to what extent these challenges may influence ratification and accession decisions. We also encourage discussion and welcome clarification of needs for assistance and cooperation that are considered essential in addressing such challenges.

The second part of the session will concentrate on an exchange of information and views regarding retention of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for the development of and training in cluster munition and explosive submunitions detection, clearance or destruction techniques, or for the development of cluster munition countermeasures, in accordance with Article 3.6 of the Convention.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion and remain at your disposal should you require any further information.



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