

Thank you Mr President,

Let me start by thanking the Coordinators Croatia and Germany for their overview, the CMC for their very inspirational film and Steve Goose for his call for action on stockpile destruction.

It has been encouraging to hear today's presentations by a number of States of their progress in destruction of stockpiles and implementation of Article 3. It is also encouraging to hear that several States Parties, report that stockpile destruction is going faster and will be cheaper than expected. These reports indicate that the financial burden connected to stockpile destruction seems not to be as significant as first anticipated. It seems that most States Parties with Article 3 obligations will fulfill their goals well within the initial eight year deadline. This is important. The destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions ensures they will never be used, thus preventing future harm.

States Parties with stockpiles to destroy can draw valuable lessons from other States Parties with similar challenges. In addition, a key element in achieving early completion of stockpile destruction is to make use of all the opportunities for international cooperation and assistance in the Convention, and to explore the gains of technical cooperation both at the international and at regional levels.

However, there is no blueprint on how destruction can be done. It is essential that projects and plans are concrete and tailored to meet the specific challenges that individual states face whether they are limited in scale or of more substantial size. From Norway's side we are interested in working with partners to ensure completion of a state's Article 3 obligations, and we welcome proposals to this effect.

President,

Article 3.6 provides for the retention of live cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for purposes of training and research. Once again, we would like to underline that in our opinion this is not necessary as the needs for training and research can be met through other means in a similar manner as for anti-personnel mines. We are concerned that the possibility to retain live cluster munitions can lead to an undermining of the stockpile destruction obligations. We look forward to the seeing detailed reporting on the quantities and purpose of retaining cluster munitions and on how they are actually used.

Thank you