



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on Storage and Stockpile Destruction

Dubrovnik, 9 September 2015

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Madam President,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)¹, comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

The United Nations welcomes the fact that stockpile destruction is proving to be quicker and less complicated than originally anticipated by the negotiators of the CCM. To ensure the continued successful implementation of stockpile destruction obligations, the United Nations is interested in the plans by States Parties to destroy their stockpiles of cluster munitions, like many of the twenty-three States that have done so to date, well ahead of their eight-year deadline.

The United Nations takes this opportunity to congratulate Japan for the completion of the destruction of its cluster munitions stockpiles on 10 February 2015. The United Nations also congratulates Bosnia and Herzegovina for the announcement that it has completed the destruction of the cache found in the aftermath of its main destruction process. The news from Germany that it will complete its obligations under Article 3 by the end of September 2015, only a few weeks away, is also a very positive sign for the CCM.

Article 3 provides for more than destroying stockpiles of cluster munitions within eight years. States Parties with stockpiles of cluster munitions should start by identifying how many cluster munitions and sub-munitions are located in their stockpiles, immediately separate them from operational stocks, and follow-up with the planning for their destruction. These measures should be taken soon after the entry into force of the CCM for each State.

Progress in implementing Article 3 obligations should be duly reflected in the respective annual transparency reports, as highlighted in the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan.

The United Nations calls on all States Parties to promote safe and secured storage and destruction of explosive munitions. The United Nations will remain committed to support States Parties in applying the appropriate quality standards throughout the entire life cycle of required munitions.

Madam President, to close:

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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Countries experiencing difficulties in identifying cluster munitions among their ammunition stockpiles and in organizing their destruction process should recourse to their right to seek and receive assistance, including through the United Nations, as provided by Article 6 of the CCM.

Thank you.