



8MSP CCM - Statement on storage and stockpile destruction

Geneva, 03.09.18

Mister President,

Article 3 is one of the central provisions of the Convention as it has a preventive effect by ensuring that stockpiles are responsibly disposed of within a set deadline. We welcome the fact that States Parties having obligations under this article have so far met them well within the timeframe set by the Convention. We also welcome the actions and objectives set forth in the Dubrovnik Action Plan on stockpile destruction, which contribute to consolidating the positive momentum in this area and allows to assess the progress in this field, as presented in the Progress Report (CCM/MSP/2018/5). In this context, we would like to stress that all States Parties have an obligation under article 7 to submit initial and/or annual reports including information regarding the implementation of article 3 obligations. It is encouraging to observe that the great majority of State Parties with article 3 obligations have submitted an annual report in 2018. We would like to invite those States Parties that have not yet done so to submit their annual report or their initial transparency report as well as to develop a resourced plan for the destruction of their stockpiles and inform other States Parties thereof.

The provisions set forth in the Dubrovnik Action Plan underline the importance of transparency with regard to stockpile destruction and retention. In this context, Switzerland wishes to provide delegations with an update on the status of disposal of its stockpile of cluster munitions.

The process for the disposal of cluster munitions follows the regulations of the Swiss Department of Defence which apply to any type of military equipment including ammunition. Accordingly, the process of taking cluster munitions out of active service, the selection of the company for their disposal as well as transportation to the disposal site and the disposal itself are implemented in accordance with established standards and practices. The disposal plan aims at minimising the necessary resources, guaranteeing the highest safety and security standards related to the transport and



disposal as well as at maximising the recovery of recyclable materials and minimising the environmental impact. In order to ensure that these standards are complied with, the Swiss authorities regularly conduct audits of the selected disposal company.

As a follow-up to our article 7 report for the calendar year 2017, let me provide you with an update of the disposal of our cluster munitions. All of the original 200'000+ 155mm and 120mm artillery projectiles comprising more than 11 million sub-munitions held by the Swiss Armed Forces at the time of entry into force of the Convention for Switzerland have been shipped to the company selected for the their disposal. A verification activity conducted by the Ministry of Defence in August this year, showed that not all items had been disposed of yet. These will be disposed of before the end of this year. Accordingly, Switzerland will in all likelihood be able to declare compliance with art. 3 obligations by the end of the year.

With regard to the retention of cluster munitions for permitted purposes according to article 3, paragraph 6, Switzerland still retains 53 cluster munitions. These items are retained for the purpose of developing countermeasures and training EOD personnel.

Switzerland intends to continue providing transparent information on the disposal of its cluster munitions and other relevant measures both through the reporting formats and in the framework of the Convention's meetings. Switzerland would also like to seize the opportunity to once again underline the value of openness and transparency in the implementation of the Convention.

I thank you, Mister President.