

CCM THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION
WORK PLAN 2024 – 2025 ON ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3
Zambia and TBC

1. Background and Workplan Context

According to Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, each State Party is required to declare and destroy all stockpiled cluster munitions that are under its jurisdiction or control as quickly as possible. This must be completed no later than eight years after the Convention enters into force for that specific State Party. Additionally, Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Convention states that any State Party that is in a position to do so should provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions.

Relationship with Lausanne Action Plan

Actions 14, 16, and 17 of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) provide the framework for advancing the implementation of Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). To ensure the full realization of Article 3, States are committed to the following actions:

- Action 14: States are required to report any previously unknown stockpiles discovered after declaring compliance. They must notify the Presidency of the Convention immediately and include the findings in their next report to the Meeting of States Parties (MSP) or Review Conference, as well as in their Article 7 report. The stockpiles must be destroyed as soon as possible in accordance with Articles 3 and 7, as noted in paragraph 30 of the Final Report of the Second Review Conference.
- Action 16: This action serves as a potential tool for universalization by engaging states that are not yet party to the convention. States should exchange lessons learned from their national destruction processes.
- Action 17: States should conduct an annual review of the number of cluster munitions and/or explosive munitions retained for permitted purposes under Article 3(6). The review should ensure that the amount retained does not exceed what is absolutely necessary for those purposes. Any excess munitions must be destroyed.

Since the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM (12MSP) which was held in 2024, all States Parties reported having completed destruction of their stockpiled cluster munitions and therefore, fulfilling obligations under Article 3. Therefore, the primary focus of the Coordinators will be to track and report on the status of the retention of cluster munitions by States Parties, in accordance with Article 3.6 of the Convention.

2. Objectives

- a) Encourage timely and detailed progress updates on obligations outlined in Article 3.
- b) Create a database of best practices and cost-effective methods for stockpile destruction among relevant states, including safety measures, environmental impact, and efficiency.
- c) For those states that have retained cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for permitted uses under Article 3(6), encourage annual reporting on their planned and actual uses, as well as on their type, quantity, and numbers, in accordance with Article 3(8).
- d) Develop a Working Document on cluster munitions retained or acquired for training purposes related to cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance, or destruction techniques, in accordance with the requirements outlined in Article 3(8).

3. Strategy

The Coordinators for Stockpile Destruction intend to engage in bilateral discussions with relevant States Parties. This will take place in Geneva, during the CCM MSP, at intersessional meetings, and in other appropriate disarmament meetings, in consultation with the Presidency.

The focus of these discussions will be:

- a) To engage bilaterally, including through formal correspondence, with States Parties that have retained cluster munitions in accordance with Article 3.6 (specifically Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Spain) but have not provided sufficient information regarding their use as required under Article 3(8) of the Convention and Action 17 of the Lausanne Action Plan.
- b) To engage bilaterally, including through formal correspondence, with relevant States Parties to encourage the sharing of best practices and cost-effective stockpile destruction methods. This will include discussions on safety measures, environmental impact, and overall efficiency.

4. Expected Outputs

States Parties that have successfully completed the destruction of their stockpiles are encouraged to serve as valuable resources by sharing information on best practices for cost-effective and environmentally responsible stockpile destruction.

- Additionally, all States Parties that have retained submunitions in compliance with Article 3.8 of the Convention are invited to provide comprehensive reports on both the past and anticipated use of these retained munitions in their Article 7 submissions.

5. Timeline

Fourth Quarter of 2024:

- Engage bilaterally with relevant States Parties to encourage the sharing of good practice and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices.

First Quarter of 2025:

- Encourage annual reporting on the planned and actual uses of retained cluster munitions and explosive submunitions.
- Develop a database on good practice and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices among relevant states.

Second Quarter of 2025:

- Develop a Working Document on Cluster Munitions retained or acquired for the development of training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection clearance or destruction techniques.

6. Estimated Budget

- Limited costs, depending on the strategy adopted, as most outreach will be conducted in Geneva or in the margins of other disarmament-related meetings.

7. Strategy implementers

- Zambia – Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction.
- CCM Implementation Support Unit.

8. Potential implementing partners

- The Presidency and other members of the CCM Coordination Committee, as appropriate.
- States Parties and Signatory States that have fulfilled obligations under Article 3.
- ICRC
- ICBL-CMC
- Donor States.
- Operators and other technical organizations.