

Statement by Svetlana Geleva,
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Stockpiles

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, let me first congratulate Lebanon for having assumed the important task of President of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the CCM. I am confident that under their leadership we will make further progress in the implementation of this landmark humanitarian document and expand its universal adherence. Our appreciation also goes to the previous Presidency, Laos, and to all those have

worked hard on the preparation of this meeting, thus contributing to its successful outcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While we were preparing the initial transparency report, stockpiled cluster munitions had regrettably been found in a military compound in Macedonia. That was the reason for the delay in submitting our transparency report, which was sent out to Geneva right before our meeting started. For all interested I have an electronic copy available here. The information on the type and quantity of munitions found is available in our report.

Acting promptly on this issue, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted two decisions and tasked the MoD to destroy all stockpiles of CMs. The provisional destruction planning is underway. The period needed for destruction, once the process has started, is estimated to be 6 months. The estimates for necessary funds have been made, but it will eventually depend on the destruction methodology to be selected.

Our military experts have already made contacts with certain partner nations to consult on their experience in destruction techniques. The location has been selected. All in all, if funds are provided as planned (partly from the state budget and partly from donors), the destruction process will be finished by the end of 2012, well ahead the set deadline.

We have also had initial contacts with partner countries on possible funding of the destruction process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to conclude by reaffirming the full commitment of the Republic of Macedonia to full implementation of its obligations under the CCM.

Thank you.