

Third Meeting of States Parties to the CCM

Statement by Svetlana Geleva,

Head of Department for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Macedonia

Agenda Item 10 Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time the delegation of Macedonia is taking the floor, let me first of all congratulate you on having been elected President of the 3 MSP of the CCM, and commend you personally and your country for the tireless efforts in promoting the noble goals of this landmark humanitarian document and its universal adherence. Our appreciation also goes to the outgoing President, Lebanon, for taking forward the objectives of the Convention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Macedonia has already reported, last year stockpiled cluster munitions were found in a military compound in Macedonia. Namely, the MoD experts identified the following: 1000 pieces of 120 mm mortar cluster munitions M93, and 1.448 shipping containers of sub-munitions type AO 2.5 PT (approximately 17.376 pieces).

Acting promptly on this issue, in March and May last year the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted two decisions by which the MoD was tasked to destroy all stockpiles of CMs. As a result, the MoD experts conducted the provisional destruction planning which indicated that they needed expert/technical and financial assistance to complete the destruction in the planned period.

Following the 2MSP in Beirut where the Macedonian delegation had initial contacts with the NPA on possible support to the Macedonian program for destruction of cluster munitions, the NPA delegation visited Macedonia in January 2012 and held discussions with the MoD experts. On that occasion, they also visited the storage facilities, as well as the delaboration and destruction sites identified by the MoD.

As the second phase of the project (SHADOW – Self-Help Ammunition Destruction Option Worldwide), the NPA experts visited Macedonia in late April and carried out research and development activities with the Macedonian experts. During their visit, 4 Mortar, 120 mm M93 cluster bombs and 1 shipping container of Sub-munitions type AO 2.5 PT were destroyed for the purpose of determining the most optimal mode of destruction. In June 2012 the Macedonian MoD received the analysis

prepared by the NPA indicating the available options and recommendations for next stages of the destruction project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following up on the NPA research and development report on the project for deleboration and destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, the MoD prepared a complete analysis of the required resources, both technical and staff-related, and made a financial plan necessary for the successful completion of the destruction process.

The Macedonian Ministry of Defence and the Army are prepared to finalize the process, together with the NPA and with the financial support by the German Government, as soon as possible, so that Macedonia can hopefully report the completion of the project at the next intersessional meeting in 2013.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Let me conclude by reaffirming the commitment of the Republic of Macedonia to the full implementation of its obligations under the CCM, including under its Article 3.

Thank you.