



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Lusaka, 11 September 2013**

Statement on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Madam President,

I am delivering the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the 12 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

The United Nations has repeatedly mentioned the importance of stockpile destruction of cluster munitions as both a disarmament and a preventative humanitarian measure and a compliance matter. It is crucial that States parties, and even signatories, destroy their stockpiles as soon as possible.

In this regard, we welcome the reports on progress on stockpile destruction of cluster munitions provided by States parties. A total of 34 States parties have reported that they have or had obligations under Article 3 of the Convention. We would like to reaffirm our congratulations to Cote d'Ivoire for its successful completion, with UNMAS support, and we would also like to thank Canada for submitting a voluntary report.

The United Nations is working diligently to assist States destroy their stockpiles, for example, through the UN programmes in Libya and Sudan, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and albeit also not yet a State party, in Georgia.

The United Nations concurs with the Lusaka Progress Report that we must ensure that efficient and timely support for the completion of stockpile destruction obligations provided. In this regard, the United Nations

maintains its commitment to provide States requesting it with technical advice and support in the destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions with the aim of completion of Article 3 obligations.

Mr. President,

The United Nations encourages States parties to complete the destruction of their stockpile prior to their eight-year deadline.

The early destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions not only prevents the appropriation and use of clusters munitions by other actors, including non-states actors, but also eliminates the threat of accidental explosion of depots.

The United Nations takes this opportunity to reiterate that these activities should be done in the safest manner possible, in accordance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). We also reiterate our commitment to fully support States Parties requiring international support to achieve their Article 3 obligations.

Speaking now in my capacity as Director of UNMAS, I would like to seize this opportunity to announce an UNMAS initiative to recommend that Member States consider participating, at expert level, in a meeting on stockpile management and prevention of accidental explosions of government-controlled depots, preferably by the end of 2014.

Should this UNMAS initiative receive your support, such a meeting could be held at Geneva in the margins of an international gathering.

I remain at your disposal for further brainstorming on this initiative.

I thank you.