

## **Statement by Canada on Stockpile Destruction**

### **Fifth Meeting of States Parties To the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**September 2 - 5, San José, Costa Rica**

Mr. President,

I would like to provide an overview of Canada's efforts in destroying its stockpile of cluster munitions.

Over the past three decades Canada has had two types of cluster munitions, the air dropped Dispenser Cluster Bomb Unit (CBU) Mk20 Rockeye and the ground-based 155mm Projectile High Explosives Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICM) M483A1.

Although Canada had a stockpile, they have never been used in Canadian Armed Forces-led operations.

The CBU Mk20 Rockeye inventory was destroyed by the Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot Dundurn in Saskatchewan, Canada by an Open Detonation program using electric detonators, blasting agents and C4 explosive.

The destruction program was conducted over two years and completed by September 2006. Over 248,000 bomblets contained within 826 CBUs were destroyed, after which the area was swept for unexploded ordnance. None were found and complete detonation was confirmed. The munitions scrap was removed, screened for trace energetics and identified for future demilitarization.

As we reported last year, Canada's remaining challenge was to destroy the DPICM stocks. We are very happy to announce that this challenge has been overcome, and that Canada completed the destruction of its cluster munitions stockpile. The Canadian Armed Forces did not retain any of these cluster munitions for purposes permitted by article 3 of the Convention.

The entire inventory of 12,600 projectiles was declared surplus in late 2006 and removed from operational status in January 2007. Due to the large quantity of projectiles awaiting disposal, the associated workload to dispose of them by open detonation, and the environmental impact of such a method of destruction, the safest and most effective option was to contract out the disposal. As we reported in our 2013 voluntary Article 7 report, Canada destroyed in December 2011 three projectiles containing 264 sub-munitions to develop a demilitarization standard operating procedure for open detonation as an alternative to commercial demilitarization, should that be necessary.

In July 2012, Public Works and Government Services Canada, the contracting arm of the Government of Canada, advised industry of the Department of National Defence's requirement for the disposal by demilitarization process of its DPICM stocks, as part of this competitive contracting process. The disposal contract was published in April 2013 and was awarded in January 2014 to the lowest compliant bidder, General Dynamics – Ordnance and Tactical Systems Munitions Services (OTS), located in Joplin, Missouri, United States. General Dynamics – OTS is a company that has more than 10 years of experience in this type of business.

In April 2014, securely-packed loads of cluster munitions began to leave the Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot in Dundurn, Saskatchewan onboard trucks, for their final destination in Missouri. Their demilitarization began few weeks later, and was completed via disassembling and incineration methods. General Dynamics remotely disassembled the projectiles and removed the grenades. The fuze was removed from each grenade and both the fuze and grenade body were incinerated to burn the energetics. Any pollutants generated from the incineration were captured and processed by an abatement system regulated by the United States Environment Protection Agency (US EPA). Indeed, as the destruction contract was awarded to a company in the United States, throughout the demilitarization process, US safety and environmental standards, which are considered almost identical to Canadian ones in terms of breath and stringency, were respected. Finally, metal and material scraps were recovered during the process and released to commercial recyclers after appropriate safeguards were ensured.

On 19 June 2014, the demilitarization work was completed, and on 3 July 2014 Canada received from General Dynamics the official certificate of demilitarization of its remaining stock of cluster munitions.

In summary, we are happy to report today that Canada has achieved the complete destruction of its stockpiles well ahead of the deadline prescribed by the Convention.

Thank you.