

BOTSWANA'S COMMITMENT TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS CONVENTION

President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Ambassador Michael Biontino, On behalf of my delegates and indeed my country, Botswana through the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security allow me to congratulate you for ascending to the helm of this very important Convention.

Indeed the world should stand in one accord in condemning the use of cluster munitions, and encourage countries to commit to total eradication of this scourge of cluster munitions.

I am happy to report that:

1. Contribution:

Botswana in an effort to be in good standing and a committed member of the Convention has paid her annual contribution for the year 2017

2. Transparency Reporting:

In terms of transparency reporting, Botswana has been reporting to the UN on this subject matter, though regrettably without consistency. However, moving forward, we are committed to consistently report on our milestones regarding the destruction of cluster munitions.

Outstanding issues

3. Domestication of the CCM. Progress is underway in this regard. Consultation is at an advanced stage by way of a Cabinet Memorandum that is being circulated within Cabinet to legislate this Convention of Cluster Munitions into our National Laws.

4. Destruction of the stockpiles. As you might be aware, Botswana has limited quantities of cluster munitions, which is yet to be destroyed. However this has not been done due to lack of financial and technical resources capacity.

To this end, Botswana has requested for assistance. I am thus happy to announce that the Norwegian Peoples Aid has agreed to assist in the destruction of the cluster munitions. Botswana is indeed grateful to this kind gesture.

The Discussions between the two parties are at an advanced stage and a team of experts from the Norwegian Peoples Aid is scheduled to visit Botswana during the period 16th to 18th October 2017 for verification and feasibility mission.

The main objectives of this team is as follows:

- a. To discuss the level of partnership and support with Botswana Ministry of Justice Defence and Justice.

- b. Validate the types and quantities of the stocks to be able to assess a workable programme of support and the required budget.
- c. Assess the current capacity in terms of technical assistance and facilities that can be utilized to assist in the programme, and identify any additional resources that would be required for the destruction project.

Based on the assessment, a project document will be jointly developed with the Ministry of Justice Defence and Security detailing the timeframe, resources and costs needed for complete destruction of Botswana's stockpile of cluster munitions. If additional financial support is required to complete the project, this document can be submitted to interested donors as necessary.

To this end, Botswana is optimistic that following this assessment the destruction of the munitions will be successful.

Therefore Botswana through the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security remain seized with this matter.