

**DRAFT INTRODUCTION OF BULGARIA'S EXTENSION REQUEST,
UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF CCM – STORAGE AND STOCKPILE
DESTRUCTION**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

This presentation is made on behalf of the Analysis Group comprised of Austria, Mozambique, (coordinators of article 3), and the Netherlands and Peru (coordinators of International Cooperation and Assistance) of CCM. The Group was set up upon submission by Bulgaria of their extension request under article 3.

Even though the methodology of analysis had not yet been considered by the 9MSP, the analysis Group used it as tool for its work and it has proved useful.

Bulgaria extension request is, indeed, the first ever, under article 3 of CCM.

Mr. President,

Bulgaria, a State Party to CCM, since October 2011, aware of lack of progress in its endeavour to comply with the provisions of article 3 of CCM, sought to engage with the relevant coordinators and ISU, in a timely fashion.

We commend Bulgaria for their positive and transparent engagement with the Analysis' Group, as they sought to respond, to the extent possible, to the questions and concerns raised by the Group, in its bid to prepare a substantive and evidence – based extension request.

The constructive engagement with both article 3 coordinators and the ISU, led Bulgaria to prepare its extension request, which draft was improved over time in light of those exchanges. Document ref. CCM/MSP/2019/10 is a clear reflection of the final outcome, even though Bulgaria might want to provide additional information if the delegation so wishes.

The extension request explains, in detail, the political, legal and technical challenges underneath the delay in the implementation of

article 3. Annex to the extension request provides additional information.

Mr. President,

The Group is of the view that the information provided in the request and in the subsequent response to the questions, is based on currently available data. Therefore, the actual implementation of the extension request, once approved, will still be dependent on many others factors.

It is imperative that Bulgaria provides a detailed Project Management Plan, for the destruction of the cluster munitions. Indeed, the Convention would benefit from Bulgaria reporting annually through Article 7, and at Meetings of States Parties or Review Conferences the following:

- (i) Progress made on the destruction of its stockpiles;
- (ii) Updated information on remaining stocks and use of its retained submunitions;
- (iii) Detailed work plan for the subsequent year; and
- (iv) Other relevant information.

Bulgaria should also keep States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 3, during the period covered by the request.

States Parties wishing to pronounce themselves on the extension request, as well as on the draft decision, as annexed to the request, may do so tomorrow, during the informal session.

In concluding, Mr President, we wholeheartedly thank the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), for the expertise provided and without which the Group would have had enormous difficulties in fulfilling its task on the subject matter.

We thank you, Mr. President