



Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Geneva, 16 – 19 April 2012

Statement by DENMARK on stockpile destruction and retention

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Madam Chairperson,

Since this is the first time Denmark takes the floor let me begin by thanking all who have been involved in organising the 2012 intersessionals. I would also like in general to express Denmark's appreciation of the work being carried out in the intersessional period including by the working group coordinators.

Madam Chairperson,

As one of the first 30 states to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions Denmark remains fully committed to the elimination of cluster munitions on the basis that such weapons cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

At the Second meeting of States Parties last year in Beirut, Denmark announced that the destruction of the national stockpile of 42,000 artillery shells, roughly 2.5 million sub-munitions, would at the latest begin in 2016. Today, I am pleased to report that Denmark will commence the destruction of cluster munitions already this year. Four years earlier than expected. The contractor is currently finalizing its planning for the physical destruction, and the process of destruction is expected to be completed already by the end of 2013. Five years ahead of the deadline.

Madam Chairperson,

Regarding the question of retention you might recall that Denmark during the First meeting of States Parties in 2010 in Lao PDR announced that 170 artillery shells were planned to be retained for training and education of EOD personnel. The analysis of the precise number of retained cluster munitions is ongoing. However, I am pleased to report that the current indications are that the final number is expected to be significantly lower than initially announced. Let me underline that the retained sub-munitions will be separated from the shell. Thus, it cannot be used operationally anymore.

Madam Chairperson,

Please allow me to conclude my remarks by reiterating Denmark's overall position on the issue of cluster munitions: Denmark considers the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be the standard and the appropriate framework for addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, and Denmark urges all states not parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to abolish this type ammunition and join the CCM without further delay.

Thank you.