

Intersessional meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

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Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Madam Chair,

Since this is the first time Macedonia is taking the floor, let me first of all thank the President of the 2 MSP, Lebanon, for their tireless efforts in promoting the noble goals of this landmark humanitarian document and its universal adherence. Our appreciation also goes to the all those who contributed to the preparation of this intersessional meeting, including the chairs of this session, Croatia and Germany.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Macedonia reported in its initial transparency report and at the 2 MSP in Beirut, last year stockpiled cluster munitions had been found in a military compound in Macedonia. Namely, the MoD experts identified the following: 1000 pieces of 120 mm mortar cluster munitions M93, and 1.448 shipping containers of sub-munitions type AO 2.5 PT (approximately 70 thousand pieces).

Acting promptly on this issue, in March and May last year the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted two decisions by which the MoD was tasked to destroy all stockpiles of CMs. As a result, the MoD experts conducted the provisional destruction planning which indicated that they needed expert/technical and financial assistance to complete the destruction in the planned period.

Following our meeting in Beirut where the Macedonian delegation had initial contacts with the NPA on possible support to the Macedonian program for destruction of cluster munitions, the NPA delegation visited Macedonia in January 2012 and held initial discussions with the MoD experts. On that occasion they also visited the storage facilities, as well as the delaboration and destruction sites identified by the MoD.

As the second phase of the project, the NPA experts are expected to visit Macedonia shortly and carry out research and development activities with the Macedonian experts, following which the Macedonian MoD will be provided with an analysis of the available options and recommendations for next stages of the demolition project.

Depending on the results of the analysis and the availability of funding, we will be in a position to assess whether our plan to complete the destruction process before the 3 MSP to be held in Oslo in September is viable. In any case, as we declared in Beirut, we are firmly committed to finish the destruction process by the end of 2012, well ahead of the set deadline.

As for submunitions PFM 1C, information on which is contained in our initial transparency report, and we later on treated under the Ottawa Convention, I would like

to inform you that the quantities found are expected to be destroyed by the MoD staff in May this year, with technical and expert assistance of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by reaffirming the commitment of the Republic of Macedonia to the full implementation of its obligations under the CCM, including under its Article 3.

Thank you.