

## CCM Intersessional Meeting 2012

Session on Stockpile Destruction & Retention (Wednesday 18 April 2012)

First segment: stockpile destruction

### Concluding Remarks by the Coordinator (Germany)

I thank delegations for their participation in this fruitful exchange of information. Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of completion and the many updates we heard from States Parties and signatory States about the status of their destruction programmes confirmed the steady progress in the overall destruction process. From a disarmament perspective, significant progress has been achieved through the Convention to date.

Technical and financial challenges do exist and should not be neglected. But we have seen once again that such challenges can be addressed. We heard a couple of requests for assistance, and I would like to remind us all once again that States Parties committed to identify needs for international cooperation and assistance also in the field of stockpile destruction, to promote technical cooperation and to respond to requests for assistance.

Finally, I would like to briefly report from a side event on "Safety management in stockpile destruction" which Croatia and Germany organised yesterday and to which some interventions referred:

Expert input provided by the Small Arms Survey, the GICHD and UNMAS has demonstrated that the question on how to ensure the safety of stockpiles marked for destruction deserves attention. While improved stockpile management is no alternative to the obligation of CCM States Parties to destroy all stockpiles of cluster munitions within eight years after entry into force of the Convention, a safe environment is crucial throughout the demilitarization process. Proper safety management helps to avoid unintended explosions with negative impact both on human security and on the environment. Proper safety management can also contribute to the nonproliferation of cluster munitions, and therefore to the accomplishment of a crucial objective of the CCM. A number of precautionary measures have been developed in the framework of stockpile management which should be taken into account also in the run-up to the destruction of cluster munitions. Support for that is available inter alia from UNMAS. Our discussion yesterday also demonstrated that storing does have cost implications which should be added up to the overall costs of destruction programmes.

One important message that we took away from this side event was therefore: The longer you store, the higher the costs. As Coordinators, we think that this provides another set of incentives to complete Article 3 obligations as early as possible.