



**2012 Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting**

**Geneva, 16-19 April 2012**

**Storage and stockpile destruction**

**Statement by Ireland, 18 April 2012**

Madame Chairperson

My delegation would like to thank Germany and Croatia as coordinators on stockpile destruction and retention for their work on this important issue. We warmly welcome the continued progress since our last Intersessional Meeting and Meeting of States Parties in Beirut and we welcome especially the growing list of those States Parties who have completed the destruction of their entire stockpiles.

Ireland continues to encourage all States possessing stockpiles of cluster munitions to set about the task of destruction with all possible speed, in order to achieve the final elimination of the risk of proliferation and any possibility of their future use or transfer. We particularly urge States to ensure that the requirement to separate cluster munitions from operational stockpiles is fully complied with in accordance with Article 3.1 of the Convention. The destruction of stockpiles will undoubtedly require considerable time and resources; nonetheless, with determination and resolve to implement the Convention's obligations, this is a challenge that can be met.

We recognise that there are a number of different approaches to achieving efficient stockpile destruction, and we urge each State possessing stockpiles to determine the most appropriate method, based on the volume and nature of the munitions and the resources available to that State. We urge States and international organisations to share information and techniques on the most effective methods of destruction and in particular to share lessons learned from destruction projects.

I thank you, Madame Chairperson.