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## UK Statement on Cluster Munition Retention CCM Intersessional Geneva, Apr 2012

Madam Chair

As we reported at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties in Beirut, it is the UK's current intention not to retain any prohibited munitions from our own, former operational, UK stocks. We will however, retain a small number of sub-munitions for trials, development and training activities for the advancement of counter measures to any uncertain future threats; acting, of course, within the requirements of Article 3.6.

The UK's requirement to retain live cluster munitions and/or their submunitions includes the need for the technical exploitation and assessment of weapons and ordnance that may be used against UK personnel, or civilians under our protection. For example, we conduct trials as part of the process to develop armour (for both vehicles and personnel) which we consider, in some cases, may require testing against live explosive sub-munitions. We also use live submunitions in static firings to support capability development projects and the defeat of armour demonstrations during technical training courses at the UK Defence Academy.

We presently hold 956 foreign sub-munitions, which we currently consider to be the minimum number required. We have and will continue to report precise

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numbers and details of these holdings in the UK's Article 7 transparency report which will be submitted before the end of April. The numbers that the UK may retain in the future will vary as operational circumstances dictate, but will always remain the minimum necessary.

Thank you

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