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UK Statement on Stockpile Destruction

CCM Intersessional Geneva, Apr 2012

Chair

Let me begin by extending my thanks to our distinguished colleagues from Croatia and Germany for all their work to advance this agenda and for arranging the interesting side event yesterday on 'Safety Management in the Run Up to Stockpile Destruction'.

The UK is committed to implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions and is complying fully with its Article 3 obligations. We believe that destroying stocks is the only way to categorically put them beyond use and secure the Convention's humanitarian aims. However, destruction of munitions is a complex process that must conform to regulations that protect people and the environment. We continue to ensure that these aspects are funded appropriately. As at 31 March 2012, 71.5% of UK stocks, representing some 27.7m sub-munitions, had been destroyed. Under current plans it remains our intention that all UK stocks will be destroyed by the end of 2013 – 5 years ahead of deadline. The remaining stocks awaiting destruction are being held, clearly marked and segregated in secure locations. As we stated at last year's intersessional we would be delighted to share our experience of our destruction programme with other State Parties.

Thank You

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