



## **Stockpile Destruction and Retention**

**Wednesday 18 April 2012**

Ms. Coordinator,

I am delivering the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising 14 UN entities involved in mine action.

Destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions is one of the key provisions of the CCM. It is not only the main disarmament norm in the Convention, but also serves as a preventative humanitarian measure by reducing the risk of new use of those weapons and their associated impact.

States Parties should bear in mind that the main obligation contained in Article 3 is to destroy or ensure the destruction of all cluster munitions stockpiled as soon as possible and to do so no later than eight years after entry into force of the Convention.

Actual experience from the destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions by a number of States Parties and Signatories demonstrates that in most cases all stocks of cluster munitions could be destroyed well before each country's deadline.

The United Nations looks forward to hearing updates from States Parties in the implementation of Action #8 in the Vientiane Action Plan for which they endeavour to, within one year of entry into force, have a plan in place for the destruction of stocks, with an elaborated timeline and budget, and begin physical destruction as soon as possible.

International assistance and cooperation should consider the benefits of providing developing countries with necessary resources to ensure the earliest possible initiation of stockpile destruction activities, thus avoiding delays similar to those encountered in the destruction of antipersonnel mines in the context of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention. Close to 40 States Parties and Signatories have stockpiles of cluster munitions, and most of them are developing countries.

The United Nations Completion Initiative could also have a role in this task by channelling the assistance needed.

In addition, States Parties and Signatories should ensure stockpiles awaiting destruction are properly stored and transported. International standards should be implemented to ensure the safety and security of such stocks. The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), developed by the Office of Disarmament Affairs with the full involvement of UNMAS and welcomed by the First Committee of the General Assembly in its resolution (A/RES/66/42) could be useful to that end. However, the implementation of this and other safety standards should not be an impediment to the timely destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions per the requirements in the Convention.

Last but not least, and as mentioned by others, we congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina for completing their stockpile destruction obligations.

Thank you. Ms. Coordinator