



**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action  
(IACG-MA)**

**Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Geneva 15-18 April 2013**

**Statement on Stockpile Destruction and Retention**

**Delivered by United Nations IACG-MA  
17 April 2013**

Co-Coordinator *(Croatia and Spain)*,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising 14 UN partners involved in mine action.

The United Nations welcomes the reports on progress on stockpile destruction of cluster munitions by States Parties. We reiterate our views that stockpile destruction of cluster munitions is not only a disarmament and a preventative humanitarian measure, but also an important confidence building measure.

States Parties are required to destroy their stockpiles as soon as possible and, therefore, should not wait for the eight-year deadline to approach to start planning their disposal. As a first step, the numbers and types of cluster munitions and submunitions in storages and arsenals should be identified. Secondly, those stockpiles identified should be separated from munitions retained for operational use, and then be prepared for disposal.

All these activities should be undertaken in the safest manner possible, including by employing the highest standards for destruction and retention as outlined in the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The United Nations recognizes that the identification and destruction of stockpiles could represent a significant challenge to a number of States Parties and takes this opportunity to reiterate its availability to help States Parties requiring international support to achieve their Article 3 obligations.

The United Nations welcomes the updates by States Parties on this issue and extends congratulations to Cote d'Ivoire for its successful completion, as we heard earlier.

Thank you.