

Statement by Igor Djundev,

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of Macedonia**

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Geneva, 17 April 2013

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to express our appreciation on the work of Spain and Croatia as coordinators on Stockpile Destruction and Retention.

Let me now briefly update you on the state of affairs regarding the stockpile destruction of cluster munitions underway in the Republic of Macedonia.

As you may recollect, we have provided updates on this issue on the State Parties meetings in Beirut and in Oslo and the last year's intersessional held here in Geneva.

After the Beirut meeting of states parties, where we declared the identified quantities of cluster munitions and a firm commitment for their early destruction, in compliance with Article 3 of the Convention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia had intensive contacts with the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and possible donors, primarily Germany.

Following the three successful phases conducted by the NPA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia (Verification and Feasibility Assessment – January 2012, Research and Development Phase – April 2012 and Proving and Preparation Phase – November 2012), on the 19th of February 2013, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Norwegian People's Aid, regulating a joint project regarding the

complete destruction of the stockpiles of cluster munitions held by Macedonia. The Memorandum includes the Annex which outlines in detail the plan of action for the phase IV of the project – its implementation. The project is expected to be completed by 31 October 2013.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

So far the MoD, together with the NPA experts, has carried out the disassembly of nearly 1000 pieces of M93 Mortar. The explosive components have been packed and stored, in line with international standards, to await disposal. The training for the disassembly of BKF AO 2.5 RT started on 15 April and will be completed by the end of this week. The implementation of disassembly of BFK (AO-2.5 RT) – total quantity 1439- will last from the end of April until 1 August 2013. Disposal of sub-munitions and explosive components phase will start on 9 September. The sub-munitions will be destroyed by open pit detonation, with due regard to the protection of the environment.

The project is co-financed by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia, the German Federal Foreign Office and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank Norway and Germany for their financial contribution.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by reaffirming the full commitment of the Republic of Macedonia to full implementation of its obligations under the CCM.

Thank you.