

### **Statement of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Bulgaria was among the original signatories of the Convention on December 3, 2008. The Convention was later on ratified and entered into force for Bulgaria on October 1, 2011. Since then, we have endeavored to set up a plan for fulfilling the obligations envisaged in the Convention.

In January 2012 an Inter-Ministerial Working Group chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established. Its mandate is to coordinate the implementation of Bulgaria's obligations stemming from the Convention. The WG includes representatives of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Economy and Energy.

One of the tasks of the Working Group is to develop a national plan for the destruction of existing cluster munition stockpiles in line with the provision of Action #8 of the Vientiane Action Plan. The national plan is now close to being finalized and Bulgaria is determined to meet the deadline for the destruction of its stockpiles, which is 1 October 2019.

All of the cluster munitions possessed by Bulgaria have been decommissioned and separated from the munitions that are retained for operational use. The entire Bulgarian stock of cluster munitions is marked for destruction.

The physical destruction has not started yet, pending the adoption of this plan. We expect the process to start in the nearest future. The destruction process will be conducted in observation of all safety and environmental standards. Bulgaria has no intention to retain cluster munitions or explosive submunitions for training purposes, permitted in accordance with article 3, paragraph 6 of the Convention.