



Convention on Cluster Munitions

Intersessional Meeting

Geneva, 7-9 April 2014

Statement by DENMARK

Stockpile Destruction and Retention

- please check against delivery -

Thank you Mr. Co-coordinator and good morning to all,
Since this is the first time Denmark takes the floor, let me begin by thanking all who have been involved in organising the 2014 intersessional meeting. I would also like in general to express Denmark's appreciation of the work being carried out in the intersessional period including by the working group coordinator as well as by our presidency.

1

Mr. Co-coordinator,

As one of the first 30 states to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Denmark remains fully committed to the elimination of cluster munitions on the basis that such weapons cause unacceptable harm to civilians. Though you may already have heard the good news, I am taking the floor to formally convey to you that Denmark recently has destroyed its entire operational stockpile of cluster munitions. Denmark's deadline for destroying national stockpiles is not until 2018, but having decided to advance the destruction process, Denmark has now already disposed of the last Danish cluster bombs.



The Danish stockpile now destroyed comprised of 42,181 shells containing a total of 2,452,699 explosive sub-munitions. The destruction of these munitions relied on extensive recycling which has helped minimise destruction costs. The total destruction costs amounted to approximately EUR 2.3 million or less than EUR 1 per bomblet. A representative of the Danish Defence monitored the destruction of the last cluster munitions in a facility in Spain in early 2014, and together with our article seven report for 2013, the destruction certificates and flowcharts for demilitarisation have been made available to the public on the Convention's [website](#).

Mr. Co-coordinator,

As you are well aware, the convention allows for the retention of a limited number of cluster munitions for training in and development of clearance techniques. For this purpose the Danish Defence has retained 3634 bomblets in order to sustain the expertise to clear this type of ammunition in the future. The sub-munition is now separated from the shell and stored in carbon tubes, and hence no longer operational. By August 2018, the total number of sub-munitions retained by Denmark for training purposes is expected to have been reduced to 2700 pieces.

Mr. Co-coordinator,

Denmark has for many years supported efforts to universalise the conventions on cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines and has also supported UN work to clear mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. Between 2013 and 2015 Denmark is providing international humanitarian organisations with approximately 1.8 million USD to promote universalisation and

implementation of the two conventions, and Denmark contributed to the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service with approximately 5.4 million USD for 2013 and 2014.

Mr. Co-coordinator,

I would like to conclude my intervention by quoting the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Martin Lidegaard when he announced the completion of the stockpile destruction. Quote: *“It sends a strong signal that Denmark has now destroyed our entire operational stockpile of cluster munitions. Cluster bombs are inhumane weapons which all countries should abolish as soon as possible. Our work does not end here. All states outside the Convention on Cluster Munition must join the convention in order to ensure a total and global ban. I thank the Cluster Munition Coalition and its campaigners around the world for their continued work. In close partnership with likeminded countries and Danish and international humanitarian organisations, we will continue our joint efforts towards a world free from cluster bombs.”* Unquote.

3

Thank you Mr. Co-coordinator.