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SWITZERLAND

CCM Intersessional Meeting 2014 Session on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Madame / Mister Coordinator

Thank you very much for giving us the floor. We would like to seize the opportunity for a short update on the destruction process of the cluster munitions of the Swiss Armed Forces.

As indicated during the 4MSP, the Swiss Armed Forces' stockpile of cluster munitions consisted of roughly 202'000 cargo artillery projectiles of basically four different types. Already well before the 4MSP, the full separation of the stocks was concluded and the contracts with the partners in charge of the destruction of the munitions (Nammo Buck GmbH in Germany and Nammo NAD AS in Norway) had been signed.

The actual destruction of the first cluster munitions could already be initiated in late 2013: the first numbers on the state of the destruction process by 31 December 2013 show 684 cluster munition units being destroyed, the equivalent to 43'092 submunitions.

The 155mm cargo projectiles are destroyed by the following methods: Removal of ejection charge, separation of submunitions; destruction of metal parts, pyrotechnics and explosives.

The 120 mm cargo projectiles are destroyed in controlled closed underground detonations.

Simultaneously, as indicated in earlier statements, the competent agencies in Switzerland retain a small number of cluster munitions for permitted purposes according to Article 3, paragraph 6 of the CCM. All in all, 138 cluster munition units are planned to being retained.

We will provide updates regarding these number and further details in our forthcoming national report that will be submitted within the coming days. Let me however stress that the destruction of stocks is proceeding according to plan and should be completed well within the deadlines set by the convention.

Thank you very much.