

UK Statement on Stockpile Destruction

Madam / Mr President,

It is my pleasure to take the floor at this portion of the meeting. May I reiterate my thanks to the Zambian presidency for their leadership of this inter-sessional meeting.

The United Kingdom completed the withdrawal of all cluster munitions from operational service in May 2008 ahead of signing the CCM on 3 December 2008. The total value of the stockpile when removed from service was approximately £180m. In December 2013 destruction of the entire stockpile of over 38 million sub-munitions was completed [at a cost of around £40m]. The destruction process was carried out in a safe, secure, and environmentally-friendly manner.

Complete destruction of the UK stockpile has thus been achieved some 5 years ahead of the deadline of 1 November 2018.

UK armed forces may retain a small number of sub-munitions permitted purposes.

Madam / Mr President, I am glad to have been able to share this report with the States Parties gathered today. Thank you.