

Statement on Bulgaria Extension Request



Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, 16-17 May 2022

We thank Bulgaria for submitting and presenting today its second extension request containing a complete, detailed and fully costed workplan, for a relatively short time period of 15 months.

We very much hoped Bulgaria would complete the destruction of its remaining stockpile by its current deadline of 1 October this year, and we regret Bulgaria needs to request additional time. While very unfortunate, we understand this delay is due to an explosion at one of the factories of the contractor that stalled the destruction process for over a year.

We are pleased, however, that the actual destruction of Bulgaria's remaining stock had resumed and is planned to be completed by mid 2023.

The CMC calls on Bulgaria to do all it can to complete the destruction as soon as possible and by its newly requested deadline in 2023, at the latest. We also ask Bulgaria to continue providing regular updates on progress and any challenges it may encounter.

Thank you.