

UK SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON
CCM, GENEVA, 27-30 June 2011.

RETENTION

Madam Chair,

Let me begin by extending our thanks to you and your distinguished German colleagues for chairing this important session on retention and the work you have done to advance this agenda.

Madam Chair,

It is not the UK's current intention to retain any more prohibited munitions from within our own current UK holdings. We will however, retain a small number of prohibited sub-munitions for trials, development and training activities for the advancement of our counter measures to any uncertain future threats, within the requirements of Article 3.6. This will continue to be reported in detail annually as part of our Article 7 obligations.

Madam Chair,

The UK's requirement to retain live cluster munitions and/or their explosive bomblets includes the need for the technical exploitation and assessment of weapons and ordnance that may be used against UK personnel, or people under our protection. For example we conduct trials as part of the process to develop armour (for both vehicles and personnel) which we consider, in some cases, may require testing against live explosive sub-munitions. We use live explosive bomblets in static firings to support capability development projects and the defeat of

armour demonstrations during technical training courses. Similarly, the UK carries out a large range of explosive trials using such sub-munitions and explosive bomblets and will continue to need to do so in the future.

Madam Chair,

We will continue to hold only the minimum necessary for the job. The numbers that the UK may retain in the future may vary as operational circumstances dictate, but will always remain the minimum necessary.

Thank you.