

## CCM Stockpile Destruction Workplan 2022 - 2023

### Enhancing Implementation of Article 3

Presented by Bulgaria and the Netherlands

#### **1. Background and Workplan Context**

Under Art.3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, each state party is required to declare and destroy all stockpiled cluster munitions under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than eight years after the entry into force of the Convention for that State Party. Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Convention requires that each State Party in position to do so shall provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions.

By the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM (10MSP) in 2022, there still remained four States Parties that reported having stockpiled cluster munitions and therefore, outstanding obligations under Article 3: **Bulgaria, Peru, Slovakia** and **South Africa**.

Due to unforeseen events, leading to a 13-month disruption of its destruction activities, the 10 MSP granted **Bulgaria** additional extension of its Article 3 deadline until 31 December 2023 to complete the destruction of its cluster munitions. The extension for **Peru** remained unchanged until 1 April 2024. **South Africa** and **Slovakia** have reported at the 10MSP that they are on track within their stipulated deadlines of 1 November 2023 and 1 January 2024 respectively.<sup>1</sup>

#### Relationship with Lausanne Action Plan

Actions 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) adopted as [Annex II to the Final report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CCM Review Conference](#) are the basis for actions related to the further implementation of CCM Article 3. In order to advance the full implementation of Article 3, States undertook to do the following:

- **Action 12:** Develop a clear destruction plan with a specified end date and report annually on progress through Article 7 reports and at meetings of States Parties or at Review Conferences.
- **Action 13:** Upon completion of Article 3 obligations, make an official declaration of compliance, at the latest by the next MSP or Review Conference, whichever comes first, and using the Article 3 Declaration of Compliance template (CCM/MSP/2018/19, Annex I) where possible.
- **Action 14:** On discovering previously unknown stockpiles after making a declaration of compliance, report such findings immediately to the Presidency of the Convention, and at the next MSP or Review Conference and through the Article 7 report, and destroy the stockpiles as soon as possible in accordance with Articles 3 and 7.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 30, Final Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RevCon.

- **Action 15:** Ensure that any extension requests – where needed - are submitted on time, are substantiated, ambitious and clear, and provide detailed, annual, costed work plans, and take into consideration the Guidelines and Methodology for deadline extension requests submitted to the 8MSP and 9MSP respectively.
- **Action 16:** Exchange lessons learned from national destruction processes.
- **Action 17:** Annually review the number of cluster munitions and/or explosive munitions retained for permitted purposes under Article 3(6) to ensure they do not exceed the number absolutely necessary for said purpose and destroy those that exceed that number.

## 2. Objectives

- a) Encourage timely and detailed progress updates on Article 3 obligations by Bulgaria, Peru, Slovakia and South Africa.
- b) Facilitate exchange of best practice on good and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices among relevant States Parties, including on safety, environmental impact and efficiency.
- c) Increase awareness and use of the Declaration of Compliance template adopted by the 8MSP.
- d) For those States that have retained cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for permitted uses under Article 3(6), encourage annual reporting on the planned and actual uses of these, as well as on their type, quantity, and numbers, in accordance with Article 3(8).

## 3. Strategy

The Coordinators for Stockpile Destruction proposed to engage bilaterally with relevant States Parties, including in Geneva and during CCM regular and inter-sessional meetings, as appropriate, and in consultation with the Presidency. They will also explore use of the country coalition concept as a means to enhance international cooperation, in line with Article 6(5) of the CCM, and to encourage timely completion of Article 3 obligations.

The focus will be to:

- Engage bilaterally with States Parties with deadlines beyond 2022 (**Bulgaria, Peru, Slovakia and South Africa**) to accurately report on progress in advance of their 2023 and 2024 deadlines.
- Engage bilaterally, including through formal correspondence, **States Parties that have retained cluster munitions but have not provided adequate information** on their use as required under Article 3(8) of the Convention and Action 17 of the Lausanne Action Plan
- Collaborate with other members of the Coordination Committee on relevant issues, in particular when activities (e.g., bilateral meetings) overlap.

#### 4. Expected Outputs:

- All States Parties with Article 3 obligations provide an update on progress through their annual Article 7 transparency reports.
- Any states likely to miss their deadlines in 2023-24 have submitted an extension request in accordance with the Article 3 Extension Request Methodology as adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> MSP in 2019 (9 months before the next MSP or Review Conference).
- States Parties that have completed destruction of Stockpiles exchange with States Parties with outstanding obligations relevant information on good and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices, as appropriate.
- All States Parties that have retained submunitions in accordance with Article 3.8 of the Convention comprehensively report on the past and planned use of retained munitions, through their Article 7 reports.

#### 5. Timelines:

- States Parties that have stockpiled cluster munitions and have not yet submitted an Article 7 transparency report (due to the UN Secretary-General on 30 April each year) will be encouraged to do so (letters/bilateral meetings)- by **late March 2023**.
- Bilateral engagement with Bulgaria, Peru, South Africa and Slovakia, as appropriate, ahead of the 11MSP - by **July 2023**.
- Facilitate the development of **partnerships** and increase exchanges of promising practices among the target States Parties, States Parties that have finished the destruction of stockpiles, donor states and international operators through **outreach activities** (letters, e-mails, phone calls), and effective use of existing electronic and web based dissemination tools – **up to the 11<sup>th</sup> MSP**.
- **Identify obstacles** to stockpile destruction in the States Parties with remaining Article 3 obligations and explore ways to overcome them in a collaborative manner through outreach activities such as sending letters and/or e-mails, organizing meetings with Geneva-based stakeholders or capital-based representatives in the margins of other key disarmament events during the year – **up to the 11<sup>th</sup> MSP**.

#### 6. Estimated Budget:

- Limited costs, depending on the strategy adopted, as most outreach will be conducted in Geneva or in the margins of other disarmament related meetings.

**7. Strategy implementers:**

- Bulgaria – Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction
- The Netherlands - Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction
- CCM Implementation Support Unit.

**8. Potential implementing partners:**

- Other members of the CCM Coordination Committee
- States Parties and Signatory States that have fulfilled obligations under Article 3
- Donor States
- International Organizations
- International NGOs / operators and other technical organizations