

**CCM FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE**  
**Session Stockpile destruction**

Thank you Minister President,

Mister President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I am very pleased, together with France to provide you with an overview of the implementation status of Article 3, entitled "Storage and stockpile destruction"

As of today, 38 States parties have reported that they have or previously had cluster munitions stockpiles and thereby also obligations under Article 3. Among these, and taking into account the updated information provided by States parties since the 5MSP and over the past two days, 25 States parties have declared completion of their stockpile destruction obligations or have indicated the destruction of stocks before the ratification of the CCM. As Coordinators of stockpile destruction, we would like to congratulate all of you for this achievement and especially, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Japan, Sweden and Mozambique that have announced completion of obligations with Article 3 since the last reporting period. Furthermore, we would like to congratulate Italy and Germany for the upcoming destruction of their stocks of cluster munitions.

With States Parties having collectively destroyed more 80 per cent of their reported cluster munition stockpiles, and thereby well on track to complete all destruction in conformity with their respective deadlines stipulated by the Convention, national ownership and commitment for the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions have proven to be very high.

States' achievements to date on compliance with Article 3 highlight stockpile destruction as a success story of this Convention, directly contributing to its aims of preventing the proliferation and use of cluster munitions. Despite this success continued efforts are needed to ensure that all remaining stockpiles are disposed of in a timely manner in compliance with Article 3. This would also include, to provide international cooperation and assistance as and when requested.

As stated in the Croatia Progress Report, the main challenge is to ensure the continued momentum for rapid destruction of stockpiles and to utilize provisions for international cooperation and assistance to that end. This includes making more publically known the successful implementation to date underlining that the process, in most cases, have proven faster, cheaper and less complex than initially anticipated and that more and more States now

have this concrete experience which can be constructively shared to assist others in the process. Another key challenge is to ensure that the amount of explosive sub-munitions retained does not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the purposes permitted under Article 3.6 of the Convention.

Inspired by these challenges, the Coordinators on Stockpile destruction have closely worked under the guidance of the President designate of the 1RC and together with members of our Working Group namely Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, ICRC, CMC, GICHD and GMAP on this section of the Dubrovnik Action Plan, which reflects the obligations of the Convention and proposes concrete actions to be undertaken in the next five years. The Working Group on Stockpile destruction proposed five actions meant to increase the number of States parties that finished stockpile destruction, increase levels of reporting, and increase the exchanges on good practices related to stockpile destruction.

As mentioned in the DAP, States parties with cluster munitions stockpiles that have not done so will put in place a plan of destruction and fulfil their obligations under Article 3 within the deadlines of the Convention. Transparency measures and the effective submission of reports are also encouraged. Discovery of previously unknown cluster munitions stockpiles after a declaration of compliance should be reported to a meeting of the Convention, and promptly disposed of. Finally, concerned States parties and signatory States are encouraged to share best practices on stockpile destruction.

Before I pass the floor to my French colleague I would like to thank the Secretariat Ms. Sara Sekkeness and Me. Estelle Abersol for their support to the work of our session and the overall work they have done to support the progress and implementation of the CCM.

We look forward to hearing from your updates and comments.