

**Cluster Munitions Convention
Second Review Conference
25.-27.11.2020
Agenda Item 6. Organization of work.**

Informal presentations of extension requests under Article 3

**Presentation of the work of the Analysis Group on Article 3
Austria on behalf of the analysis group**

Bulgaria

Mr. President.
Excellencies,
Colleagues,

I have the honor to present today the report of the Analysis Group on Article 3 extension requests on the deadline extension request of Bulgaria. The report is contained in document CCM/CONF/2020/5. Before starting my presentation, allow me to thank fellow Analysis Group members of Australia, Montenegro and the Netherlands, as well as experts from ICRC, CMC, GICHD, and the ISU for their committed engagement and valuable inputs.

I also wish to particularly highlight Bulgaria`s commitment and engagement throughout the preparation of the extension request and in implementing the decision of the 9MSP, as well as in the cooperative work with the Analysis Group. We commend the regular and continued updates provided by Bulgaria to the Art.3 Stockpile coordinators and the Analysis Group.

Mr. President,

Bulgaria signed the Convention on 3 December 2008, ratified on 6 April 2011, and it entered into force for Bulgaria on 1 October 2011. On 9 January 2019, Bulgaria submitted to the President of the 9MSP a request to extend its Article 3 deadline of 1 October 2019. The 9MSP considered Bulgaria`s extension request and granted a 12-month extension of its initial deadline pending the provision of a detailed project management and work plan to be included in an updated extension request to be considered at the Second Review Conference.

In its updated extension request submitted on 6 April 2020, Bulgaria reported to have **6,862 cluster munitions and 186,349 explosive submunitions remaining to be destroyed** during the requested extension period of 24 months. Bulgaria informed that a contract was signed between the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and the selected company on 24 July 2019 to destroy its cluster munition stockpiles that had been divided into 3 lots. Bulgaria provided a general timeline for the destruction of all 3 lots including a detailed work plan or complete contractual programme for lots 1 and 2. A Statement of Work, which outlines the details of the stockpile destruction project was also submitted. Furthermore, Bulgaria reported to have successfully secured the necessary funding for the entire project through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States Department of State and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Bulgaria in February 2020.

Following the extension request submission and in line with the Methodology for Extension requests adopted at the 9MSP, the Analysis Group engaged with the requesting State Party to clarify outstanding issues with a view to preparing the analysis including recommendations to States Parties. The Analysis Group invited representatives of the CMC, ICRC and the GICHD to a meeting to join them on 22 April 2020 in considering the request. Following that meeting, on 29 April 2020, the Analysis Group requested additional information from Bulgaria to facilitate the analysis of its request. On 15 May 2020, Bulgaria provided a detailed response to the questions posed by the Analysis Group.

The Analysis Group noted that Bulgaria has selected a contractor and provided a detailed work plan for the destruction of Lots 1 and 2 that is workable and lends itself to be monitored. Bulgaria indicates that a detailed work plan for Lot 3 will be provided at a later stage and project that the destruction process of Lot 3 will take up to an additional 12 months, between March 2021 and April 2022.

Mr. President,

The Analysis Group recommends to grant the request for an extension of the Article 3 deadline of 24 months up to 1 October 2022.

The Analysis Group highlighted Bulgaria's compliance with the recommendations of the 9MSP to provide a detailed project management and work plan in its updated extension request. The information provided in the request and the response to the feedback of the Group is comprehensive, transparent and informative.

The Analysis Group recognised with gratitude that Bulgaria reported on the progress made on the destruction of the cluster munitions and the information provided on the use of its retained explosive submunitions for purposes permitted under Article 3.6 and on plans to further reduce the amount of submunitions retained.

The Analysis Group noted with appreciation that Bulgaria has selected a contractor and provided a detailed work plan that is workable, can be monitored and takes into account contingencies that may arise. The Group further notes with satisfaction that Bulgaria has successfully secured the necessary funding for the destruction.

The Analysis Group noted that the Convention would benefit from Bulgaria reporting annually through its Article 7 reports and at Meetings of States Parties the following:

- (a) Progress made on the destruction of its cluster munition stockpiles relative to the projections Bulgaria made in its extension request;
- (b) Updated information on the use of its retained submunitions;
- (c) Detailed work plan for the subsequent year;
- (d) Other relevant information.

The Analysis Group noted the importance, in addition to Bulgaria reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments as necessary.

I thank you.