

**Presentation**  
**by the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria**  
**to the 2nd Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Ref.: CCM Art.3 Extension Request Update**

**- PART ONE -**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, allow me to congratulate you including on behalf of my colleagues in capital for the assumption of your duties. We are convinced that your capable stewardship will help us all manage successfully our work despite this very new format of our Convention's meetings. Rest assured in our delegation's full support and cooperation.
2. Before I begin, Mr. Chairman, allow me to note that the Bulgarian Presentation will be delivered in two parts. The first one will focus on the achievements and the second one will draw the attention to the recent state of affairs and future steps. A representative of the Bulgarian MOD will deliver it.

**Excellences,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Dear colleagues listening in capitals and Geneva based Permanent Missions,**

**Dear colleagues in the UNODA Secretariat and the ISU of the Convention!**

3. Today, the Bulgarian delegation is in position to report to you on the accomplishment of a significant part of Bulgaria's activities in fulfilment of its Article 3 obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
4. In accordance with a respective decision by the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, the Republic of Bulgaria submitted its updated Article 3 extension request in the very beginning of April 2020. It contains lots of data aggregated by type of cluster munitions and sub-munitions, specifics of their destruction, projected timeline for activities, information on concluded agreements, financing provided, daily destruction rate for each typology of cluster munitions, planning of next steps and related forecast.
5. Subject to the updated request under CCM Article 3 is an extension by 24 months, setting the deadline for the ultimate destruction of all cluster munitions and related sub-munitions on Bulgarian territory by October 2022.

6. Careful consideration of all related requirements, including those in the respective Bulgarian legislation, led to the transfer of the destruction process to Italy, a state party to the Convention and the selection of the Italian company “Esplosivi Sabino” Srl as an implementer.
7. As a consequence and for the purposes of setting out the needed regulatory framework, Bulgarian authorities in charge concluded four separate agreements with following subjects:
  - (1) Selection of a project contractor.
  - (2) Destruction activities process by the Italian company “Esplosivi Sabino” Srl.;
  - (3) Transportation of the sub-munitions to the site of the Italian company “Esplosivi Sabino” Srl.;
  - (4) Additional funding of up to 2.0 Million USD for the destruction of the CMs in Lot 3.
8. In addition, to provide for the proper national regulatory framework, the Bulgarian National Assembly amended the Law on cluster munitions since the Law threatened in a different way two interrelated but independent processes, namely the transportation and the destruction of CM.
9. As of March 2020, all legal and administrative procedures have been completed and required export and import licenses and transport permits issued, thus allowing for the whole complex of related CCM Article 3 activities to start.
10. Covid-19 pandemic outbreak added another challenge to the smooth implementation of the transportation plan to Italy. Related transportation activities could only start in late May instead of early April 2020, as initially foreseen.
11. Nevertheless, encountered difficulties led to an unprecedented effective and smooth cooperation with customs, border police and other national export control authorities of the States Parties lying on the route of the Bulgarian cluster munitions to Italy. We have to bear in mind that this was and still is a very complex and difficult process, which could potentially complicate in many instances some of which particularly dangerous.
12. Despite difficulties, process complexity and pandemic, the Republic of Bulgaria managed maintaining a good progress.
13. Our sincere thanks and particular acknowledgment for their effective collaboration in this shared endeavor belong to our colleagues and partners in Romania, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy.

Without their active cooperation, our success as we report it to you today would not be possible. We continue to rely on their friendly and highly professional partnership.
14. Today we can report on the following:
15. The Bulgarian cluster munitions (CM) and explosive sub-munitions (ES) of total number 6 862 CMs and 186 349 ESs, respectively, have been divided into three (3) lots.
16. More than a half of all Lot 2 sub-munitions have been successfully destroyed.
17. Major part of the explosive sub-munitions allocated to Lot 1 are already in Italy. Remaining quantities will follow by the end of this year.

18. The value of the total contract for the destruction of Lot 1 and Lot 2 sub-munitions stockpiles amounts to 1.4 Million USD and the whole process of destruction is due to be completed by February 2021.
19. Transportation of Lot 3 sub-munitions starts in January 2021 and is to be completed in July 2021.
20. The estimate value for Lot 3 destruction is 1.29 Million USD.
21. The overall budget secured so far amounts to 1.8 Million USD plus up to 2.0 Million USD. The latter sum is set out by the provisions of the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of State and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria.
22. The Republic of Bulgaria **retained** 400 explosive sub-munitions, type 9N24, **for training purposes** by the Bulgarian Armed Forces.
23. Back in June 2019, the Bulgarian Armed Forces launched 50 explosive sub-munitions, type 9N24, during annual trainings and exercises. Another 100 explosive sub-munitions, type 9N24, have been planned to be deployed for training purposes in 2021.
24. The successive and well-planned steps undertaken by the Bulgarian competent authorities will provide for the accomplishment of the overall destruction process of Lot 1 and Lot 2 by February 2021 and of Lot 3 until October 2021. Basis for our confidence is the assured financing for the destruction of Lot 3 sub-munitions.
25. Cluster munitions and related sub-munitions in possession of private companies have also been subject to measures related to the Bulgarian Article 3 extension request. As of today, no Bulgarian company is in possession of any cluster munitions or related sub-munitions.
26. In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, let me assure you that my country will spare no efforts towards successful and on-time completion of the destruction processes under Article 3 of the Convention and will provide for related updates in regular terms.
27. However, before I conclude, allow me, to express on behalf of my colleagues in capital and my personal behalf, a sincere and wholehearted gratitude to the members of the Analysis Group for Article 3 of the Convention. Our very special thanks go to the ISU Director, Mrs. Sheila Mweemba and her devoted team. We thank them all for their dedicated and highly professional work shaped by a pragmatic and tentatively critical approach and a lot of good will.
28. Finally yet importantly, **Mr. Chairman**, the Bulgarian delegation in Geneva and Sofia stands ready to answer any questions related to our updated Article 3 extension request.
29. On this conjunction, **Mr. Chairman**, I would like to kindly request you to allow for the opportunity for my colleague from the Bulgarian MOD, Mr. Stoyan Karastoyanov, to provide for latest updates and related information.

I thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 25.11.2020