

CMC Statement on Stockpile Destruction

CCM 2RC, 25-27 November 2020



Thank you, Mr. President

The implementation of the stockpile destruction requirements of the Convention is indeed a stunning success. As we heard a total of 36 States Parties, have completed destruction of their stocks, and often ahead of the deadline, destroying a collective total of 1.5 million cluster munitions and more than 178 million of submunitions, as reported by the Cluster Munition Monitor this year.

The CMC welcomes the progress made by Slovakia and other States Parties to destroy their remaining cluster munition stocks. We thank Slovakia and Peru for their detailed updates today. We thank the UK for providing information on the newly discovered stocks and plans for prompt destruction to be completed still this year, and we ask the UK to keep States Parties informed on the progress.

Challenges remain. No State Party has completed destruction of its remaining stocks since Switzerland did so in March 2019. The convention's excellent compliance record for stockpile destruction has been tarnished by Bulgaria and Peru's extensions to their destruction deadlines. No State Party should miss its stockpile destruction deadline in the future. We are pleased to see the so called 'early warning mechanism' included in the draft Lausanne Action Plan which should help States to stay on track with destruction of their stocks and prevent situation of missed deadlines.

Questions persist. Why has South Africa not destroyed any cluster munitions since 2012? Does Guinea-Bissau possess cluster munition stocks given the January 2020 review of storage facilities by technical experts that did not identify any? If Guinea imported cluster munitions in the past, does it still possess stocks that must be destroyed under the convention?

Transparency is needed. Cyprus, Indonesia, Nigeria and perhaps other signatories stockpile cluster munitions, but have not shared information on the types and quantities stockpiled or publicly acknowledged if any of the stocks have been destroyed.

Retention is unnecessary. We thank the Netherlands for the update on demilitarization and utilization of their retained cluster submunitions. Most States Parties have chosen not to retain any cluster munitions for training and research purposes, as permitted by the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Many use inert items or those rendered free from explosives, which no longer qualify as cluster munitions or submunitions. The 13 States Parties that do retain live cluster munitions or submunitions, should reduce the number retained for these purposes and commit to not replace them.

I thank you.