



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australia | Stockpile Destruction Statement

According to the Cluster Munitions Monitor, since the Convention's adoption, States Parties have collectively destroyed 99% of the cluster munitions stocks that they collectively declared, destroying nearly 1.5 million cluster munitions and 179 sub munitions. This is a remarkable achievement and is one of the success stories of out the convention.

We have four States Parties with outstanding Article 3 stockpile destruction obligations. These are: Slovakia, Bulgaria, South Africa and Peru. In addition, the status of Guinea Bissau's stockpile destruction needs to be confirmed.

The Stockpile Destruction Coordinators have undertaken a number of activities over the last year:

We had some very productive bilateral engagement with Peru. We thank Peru for its very constructive and transparent approach. I also note that Peru is co-hosting a side event this week to update States Parties on its stockpile destruction program, including challenges and progress. We commend Peru for sharing its experiences in this area.

In addition, we supported some bilateral outreach to Guinea Bissau conducted by the UK Presidency.

With thanks to the Implementation Support Unit, we also held a bilateral with Slovakia. During this meeting, Bulgaria was able to share some of its own experiences with Geneva and capital based colleagues from Slovakia.

The coordinators and the ISU are working with South Africa to clarify the status of its stockpile destruction.

I will just conclude by reminding those States with outstanding stockpile destruction obligations of the requirement laid out in Article 3(5) of the Convention to submit their extension requests 9 months ahead of the meeting at which the request is to be considered. It is important to recall the timeline agreed to by States Parties in Article 3(5).

There are also some very practical reasons why these timeframes exist. The Implementation Support Unit is required to submit all meeting documents to the UN 2 months in advance of meetings. Further, the timeline allows the Analysis Group and the requesting States sufficient time to provide feedback, which would help ensure high quality extension requests become the norm under the Convention. Rushed considerations undermine the purpose for which the timelines were established.

Thank you Mr President

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