

## Statement Bulgaria and Netherlands - Coordinators article 3 - Stockpile destruction committee

11<sup>th</sup> MSP CCM – 12 September 2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

Detailed information on the progress in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan, including on Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Article 3), is contained in document CCM/MSP/2023/8 entitled “CCM 11 MSP Progress Report”.

In this short intervention we, as Article 3 Coordinators, will provide additional details, focusing on the activities carried out during the reporting period.

To start with good news, according to the Cluster Munition Monitor 2023, since the convention’s adoption States Parties have collectively destroyed 99% of the cluster munition stocks that they declared, destroying 1.48 million cluster munitions and 178.5 million submunitions. As already mentioned on several occasions this is a remarkable achievement and it is one of the success stories of our the convention

Since the 10<sup>th</sup> MSP, the Stockpile Destruction Coordinators, Bulgaria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, have undertaken a number of activities.

During the reporting period, the Coordinators invited the four States Parties with outstanding Article 3 obligations to meet with them (sometimes virtually), in order to be informed of the status of their stockpile destruction programmes and their implementation status. Meetings were held with three of the four States Parties with Article 3 obligations, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Peru.

**Bulgaria** has provided updates on the implementation of its Article 3 deadline extension request workplan on a regular basis. They informed us that they were on track to comply with its obligations by the current deadline of 31 December 2023. As of 1 January 2023, no cluster munitions were present on Bulgarian territory.

The Coordinators also met virtually with representatives of the **Peruvian** Ministry of Defence, Air Force and the Permanent Mission in Geneva. Peru had assured that it had destroyed 57% of its cluster munition stocks and that it was confident in achieving compliance before its 1 April 2024 deadline.

During the virtual meeting with **Slovakia’s** Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, they informed us that they were on track in implementing their destruction plan, with most of the remaining cluster munitions destroyed by a foreign contracting company and the rest being demilitarized by their national capacity.

These three States reported having used foreign cooperation and assistance in the destruction process. They also reported that the destruction techniques used were in compliance with national and international standards of safety and environmental protection.

All three States Parties Bulgaria, Peru, and Slovakia reported to be on track to meet their obligations under Article 3 and would not be submitting extension requests.

Today we are pleased to congratulate Bulgaria and Slovakia with their declaration of completion and we look forward to extending our congratulations to Peru next year at 12<sup>th</sup> MSP.

In partnership with the Presidencies, the Coordinators also conducted outreach to one State Party that had not submitted its Article 7 report for several years. In June, the State Party provided its long overdue annual reports.

We took note of the statement by the South-African delegation that they have completed their stockpile destruction commitments and we look forward to receiving further clarification and their declaration of completion.

With these results achieved, or to be achieved in the nearest future, there will be no more States Parties with outstanding Article 3 obligations, regarding their stockpiles destruction. The efforts should be directed towards monitoring and assisting those States Parties which have retained cluster munitions in accordance with Article 3.6 for training exercises. As noted in the progress report there are 11 States Parties retaining cluster munitions for permitted research and training purposes.

Thank you Mr. President.