



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

COORDINATOR OF ARTICLE 3 - STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

13th MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

16 -19 SEPTEMBER 2025.

Thank you, Mr President.

I am honoured to deliver some remarks as the Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction under agenda item 10(b), concerning the status and implementation of Article 3 of the Convention.

Since the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties, the Committee has continued to engage with States Parties with outstanding obligations under Article 3 and those approaching their deadlines. We commend the efforts of States that have made progress in declaring, verifying, and destroying their stockpiles of cluster munitions. These actions are not only technical milestones, they are moral commitments to the humanitarian spirit of this Convention.

The Republic of Zambia has undertaken some activities, as detailed in the progress in implementing the Lausanne Action Plan, including on Stockpile Destruction and Retention (Article 3), contained in document "CCM/MSP/2025/X which is entitled "CCM 13 MSP Progress Report".

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, allow me to highlight some of the data collected during the reporting period.

All 41 States Parties with obligations to destroy cluster munition stockpiles under Article 3 have declared completion, including 15 that did so prior to the Convention's entry into force for them.

Two States Parties (Peru and South Africa) that declared compliance in 2023 presented their declaration of compliance to the 12MSP in September 2024. Neither State Party has retained any cluster munitions for purposes permitted under Article 3.6.



One State Party (Peru) shared its experiences in stockpile destruction, including the challenges faced, its extension request that was submitted and granted, and the combination of national efforts with assistance from two States Parties (Germany and Norway) contributing to the successful completion of its obligations. We are grateful to Peru for sharing its experience.

During the reporting period, 10 States Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland) had retained cluster munitions in accordance with Article 3.6. Of these, nine submitted their 2024 annual reports. In this regard, we would like to encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit its annual report as soon as possible.

One State Party (Switzerland) submitted updated annual reports for 2022 and 2023 containing revised information on its retained cluster munitions.

Two States Parties (Germany and Sweden) reported the use of retained cluster munitions in 2024, thereby reducing their retained stocks, for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training.

One State Party (France) reported having acquired and used one explosive submunition for the development of neutralization techniques, as permitted under Article 3.6.

Six States Parties (Bulgaria, Cameroon, Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland) reported no reduction in their retained cluster munitions during the reporting period.

One State Party (Denmark) reported allocating national resources for the destruction of its retained cluster munitions.

One State Party (Cameroon) has requested assistance for the destruction of its retained cluster munitions, but has not yet received support.

One State Party (Afghanistan) reported that all its known cluster munition stockpiles were destroyed in 2014. However, some abandoned and



residual cluster munitions were later identified in its stocks and subsequently destroyed during EOD operations.

One State Party (Italy) reported that cluster munitions transferred from Bulgaria for the purpose of destruction, in accordance with Article 3.7, were completely destroyed in April 2024.

We thank those States Parties that have continued to submit transparency reports in which they declare the retention of Cluster Munitions stockpiles. A special responsibility is placed on all States Parties to submit detailed reports on the planned and actual uses of retained cluster munitions.

We applaud States that have shown a strong commitment to fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, including destroying stockpiled mines and clearing mined areas. We encourage all States Parties to provide information on how they used or destroyed cluster munitions during the periods covered by their transparency reports.

However, we remain concerned about the limited pace of destruction in certain cases and the lack of timely transparency reports from some States Parties. As of this meeting, several States have yet to submit updated information on quantities destroyed, remaining stockpiles, and destruction methodologies. This impedes our collective ability to monitor compliance and offer targeted support.

We also note that some States Parties have indicated challenges related to technical capacity, safety protocols, and resource constraints. The Committee urges these States to engage proactively with international partners and the Implementation Support Unit to explore cooperative solutions, including technical assistance and funding mechanisms.

Looking ahead, the Coordinator will continue to prioritize:

- Bilateral engagement with concerned States Parties to clarify timelines and obstacles;
- Promotion of best practices in safe and environmentally sound destruction;



We would be interested to hear your views and activities related to the the implementation of Article 3, including challenges as well as opportunities for the destruction of cluster munitions.

I thank you for your attention. I now give the floor back to the President.

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Closing by Zambia

Thank you, Mr. President,

We remind all States Parties that the destruction of stockpiles is not merely a legal obligation—it is a preventive measure and a moral imperative that directly reduces the risk of future use, accidental detonation, and diversion. Every munition destroyed is a step toward a safer, more humane world.

Mr. President, we call on all States Parties to reaffirm their commitment to Article 3 implementation and to work collaboratively toward full implementation. We stand ready to support these efforts.

Thank you.