

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, 9-13 SEPTEMBER 2013**



**Summary of the sessions on Stockpile Destruction
and on Clearance**

Stockpile Destruction

The Co-Coordinator of the Working Group on Stockpile Destruction and Retention, Croatia and **Spain**, chaired the session that clearly highlighted, once again, that stockpile destruction is the success story of the convention, with 71% of States Parties' stockpiles already destroyed. They noted that some of the challenges ahead are the rapid destruction of the remaining stocks and the identification of the funds to achieve this important aim.

The session was marked by **Chile's** announcement that it has completed stockpile destruction.

Canada noted it still has to destroy its DPICM stocks; it reported it has published a disposal contract that will likely be awarded in 2014, then 12 to 24 months will be needed to complete the disposal of all munitions. **Colombia** recalled that it has completed stockpile destruction in 2009. **Croatia** declared that approximately 100 tons of cluster munitions are left to be destroyed and expressed the hope to finish its stockpile destruction by the end of next year if adequate financial resources are provided. **Denmark** said its destruction process should be finalized by the end of 2013, and reported it will keep 2,700 submunitions for training purposes. It said destruction only cost one Euro per submunition. **France** reaffirmed its commitment to complete its destruction programme as soon as possible. It also reported that 25% of its M26 rockets has been destroyed (5,400 cluster munitions and 3,5 million of submunitions), while all of its 13,000 OGR artillery projectiles has now been destroyed.

FYR Macedonia reported that the destruction of submunitions is expected to be completed in October 2013. **Germany** announced that 108,000 cluster munitions, with a total of 18 million submunitions, remain to be destroyed; and while it had to reschedule the destruction of some munitions due to technical obstacles, it should be able to complete destruction by the end of 2015. **Guinea-Bissau** said its negotiations with UNMAS concerning the destruction of stockpiles had been interrupted by the political situation. It called on states to provide assistance as the inadequate stockpiling conditions mean cluster munitions are a threat for the population.

Ireland recalled it has never possessed cluster munitions and stated that states wishing to retain cluster munitions under Article 3 should only retain the minimum number necessary for permitted purposes. **Italy** reported that during the first semester of 2013, 1,110 M26 rockets were destroyed and 1,008 M26 remained to be destroyed as of July 2013, a process that should be completed in advance of its deadline. **Japan** announced that stockpile destruction had begun in September. Approximately 14,000 cluster munitions containing 2

million submunitions remain to be destroyed and Japan announced that the destruction of all stockpiles should be completed by the end of 2015. It does not plan to retain cluster munitions.

Mozambique explained it has separated cluster munitions from operational stocks and marked them for destruction. It said that it will require technical assistance and financial support to complete the destruction process and hoped it will be able to meet its obligations well ahead of its deadline. The **United Kingdom** reported that as of 21st July 2013, 92% of its cluster munition inventory (35,820,970 submunitions) had been destroyed, and that its destruction programme is on schedule to be completed by mid-December 2013 - 5 years ahead of its deadline. **Spain** said it is retaining 656 cluster munitions for training purposes, and that the government is studying a proposal to destroy the 3,600 unassembled MAT-120 that still require destruction.

Sweden announced that to date, more than 60% of all its BKM90 cluster munitions have been dismantled. It also reported it will retain 125 submunitions to train personnel in destruction techniques. **Switzerland** reported that the separation of cluster munitions from operational stocks has been completed, and said the transport to destruction sites in Germany and Norway and the beginning of the destruction process should start during the last quarter of 2013.

The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action** reiterated its commitment to provide states with technical support for stockpile destruction and proposed to organize a meeting on stockpile management and prevention of accidental explosion of governmental depots to be held by the end of 2014. The **GICHD** presented its cluster munitions identification tool available at: <http://cmid.gichd.org>

Natasha Dokovska delivered the **CMC** statement, noting that while in the early days of the convention there were concerns that stockpile destruction would be a long and prohibitively costly process, “the news so far show this is not true.” She encouraged states to share lessons learned from their stockpile destruction activities.

Statements from this session are available at <http://bit.ly/18VGprl>

Clearance

The Co-Coordinator of the Working Group on Clearance and Risk Reduction, **Ireland** and **Lao PDR**, opened the session by emphasizing that the clearance of cluster munition remnants (CMR) is not an insurmountable task. They introduced the revised version of a paper entitled *Effective steps for the clearance of cluster munition remnants* that aims to “demonstrate that CMR contamination can be addressed effectively and relatively quickly.” (The original draft is available at <http://bit.ly/15t64Sg> and the revised version should be available soon at <http://bit.ly/1bFKdhn>.)

Norway as President of the 3MSP introduced the revised version of its paper on *Compliance with Article 4* that aims to “provide States Parties with strategic and overall guidance on how

to approach planning and execution of survey and clearance operations.” (The revised version is available at <http://bit.ly/1dLNM50>.)

The papers were generally received very positively, and the **4MSP President** explained that they were not meant for negotiation and adoption by meeting participants but rather as contributions attributed to their authors only. The **CMC** urged “all those involved in survey and clearance at any level” to make use of the valuable guidance provided by Norway’s paper, and also noted its support for the revised version of the Co-Coordinator’s paper that includes feedback from NGO clearance operators.

The session was marked by **Mauritania’s** announcement that it has completed the clearance of cluster munition remnants and is currently taking the necessary administrative steps to make an official declaration of completion.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (speaking during the session on transparency) reported that clearance should be completed “by the year 2016.” **Croatia** reported the clearance of almost 800,000 m² in 2012, with a remaining contamination currently totaling 4.03 km². It announced with regrets that on 10 July 2013 an MK-1 bomblet explosion near a depot injured two military engineers and killed another. **Lao PDR** once again referred to an estimated contamination of 8,470 km² but expressed the hope to “further refine [its] clearance plans based on more accurate and detailed data” and to start releasing land on the basis of survey alone thanks to a new methodology currently under development. Lao PDR reported the clearance of 401 km² between 1996 and July 2013. **Lebanon** said that without further financial support, it would not be in a position to release its remaining 18 million m² of contaminated areas by 2016 as initially intended. In light of this situation, a revised clearance strategy will be presented by the end of the year.

Mozambique explained that cluster munition use on the territory has been limited and that contamination can be tackled as part of ongoing mine and ERW clearance efforts. It noted that it should be in a position to complete any necessary survey and verification by 2016. **Norway** reiterated its intention to finish clearing its contaminated firing range by the end of 2013. **Thailand** reported an increase in productivity in recent years thanks to the use of an appropriate land release method, but did not provide any figures backing this statement up.

Australia noted its AU\$10 million contribution to mine action since late 2012 and **Switzerland** reported a contribution of 17 million Swiss Francs to mine action in 2012, but none of the two provided a disaggregated figure for support to cluster munition clearance. Switzerland announced it would “keep and if possible even extend” its financial support to mine action in the coming years.

The **Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining** announced that it is documenting policies and practices on clearance of residual World War II contamination in European countries, which can be drawn upon to more effectively manage residual contamination in other countries. The research is due to be completed by the 5MSP. The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action** encouraged donors to commit to multi-year funding and to be sensitive to the fact that mixed contamination often makes clearance more complicated, slower and more expensive. The **International Committee of the Red**

Cross shared its views on the elements that should be included in a well-designed land release plan.

Chris Loughran delivered the **CMC** statement, emphasizing that areas with suspected or confirmed contamination should be defined as narrowly as possible based on adequate evidence, and that there should be reliable and credible evidence for including contamination in a database.

Statements from this session are available at <http://bit.ly/15zx73D>