

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS  
FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA, 2-5 SEPTEMBER 2014**



**Summary on Stockpile Destruction and Clearance**

**STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION**

The session was marked by **Canada's** announcement that it has completed the destruction of its entire stock of cluster munitions and that it would not retain any for training. In-depth information was shared on the destruction methods and calendar.

**Croatia** explained why it would change its approach from a military-only process to a partnership with a private company. While being unable to confirm a timeline for the moment, it expressed hope to complete stockpile destruction before the First Review Conference. **France** reiterated that it would at a minimum comply with its convention deadline and that it might be able to finish destroying its stockpiles before deadline. It noted that stockpile destruction would cost €20 million. **Germany, Italy** and **Japan** stated their respective goals to complete stockpile destruction in 2015 or by the end of 2015. **Guinea-Bissau** asked for international support to destroy various ammunition including cluster munitions. **Mozambique** explained how it intended to complete destruction in the beginning of December 2014. **Sweden** explained that the dismantling of cluster munitions was completed and that 60% of submunitions had already been destroyed. It confirmed its intention to retain 125 submunitions. **Switzerland** reported that destruction activities were taking place according to plan and that the process would be completed "well within the timeline foreseen by the convention". The **United Kingdom**, who completed destruction in December 2013, offered to share its expertise on safe and environmentally-friendly methods.

**Swaziland** said that no states should retain cluster munitions for training.

**Chile, Colombia, Ecuador** and **Spain** also took the floor to reiterate information that had been shared at previous meetings, including in the case of Spain a pledge to complete destruction within deadline. The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action** noted that early predictions that stockpile destruction would be slow due to the costly and complex nature of the process now appear unjustified.

Speaking on behalf of the **CMC**, Tamar Gabelnick noted the remarkable progress made on stockpile destruction and encouraged states that have not yet shared information on their planned deadlines to do so in a timely manner.

## CLEARANCE

Both **Mauritania** and **Norway** submitted formal declarations of compliance with Article 4, signalling that all contaminated areas on their territory had been cleared of cluster munition remnants.

**Afghanistan** announced that the remaining contaminated area spans 7 km<sup>2</sup> in four provinces. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** said that suspected hazardous areas stand at 10.26 km<sup>2</sup> and that clearance would be completed in 2016 if activities can be deployed according to plan. It spoke about efforts to address the “floating minefields” created by major recent floods. The **Democratic Republic of Congo**, a signatory, called for international support to clear its 17,590 m<sup>2</sup> contamination in two provinces. **Croatia** reported that current contamination totals 2.9 km<sup>2</sup> in five counties. Clearance was completed in two counties but additional contamination found in another one explains the relative stability of the contamination figure. **Iraq** estimated that 16 million unexploded submunitions litter its territory. Non-technical survey was hampered by insecurity but is now complete in six governorates and should be completed in the rest of the country by the end of 2015. **Lao PDR** expressed its confidence that its new survey process would enable the rapid identification and definition of contaminated areas. It noted that planning and implementation were more difficult when support is received on a short-term basis and assorted with heavy restrictions.

**Lebanon** called for international support to complete clearance in 2020 since its 2016 target could not be met. **Montenegro** explained that part of its activities on the “reconnaissance and destruction of UXO and related materials” could not be carried out due to a lack of resources. It called for international support, but did not provide any additional details. **Mozambique** reiterated that survey is underway and that any contamination would hopefully be dealt with by 2016. **Somalia**, a signatory, announced that a “significant number” of cluster munitions had been found in 2013 along the border with Ethiopia. **Tajikistan**, a non-signatory, said that all known contaminated areas had been cleared between 2004 and 2014 but that limited contamination might still exist in “inaccessible areas in the Central Region of Tajikistan”.

Both **Ireland** and **Norway** encouraged states to make the best possible use of land release techniques.

The **Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining** offered six practical recommendations to overcome the challenge of cluster munition clearance. It explained that acknowledging the long-term nature of UXO does not mean a loss of emphasis on clearance obligations under the CCM – on the contrary, it promotes the targeting of submunitions as a priority since survey and clearance should be targeted as components of the contamination that pose the greatest threat. The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action** encouraged donors to offer flexible multi-year funding.

Christian Andersen delivered the **CMC** statement that encouraged states to apply good survey practices. He also noted that instead of looking just at square meters cleared or number of cluster munition remnants destroyed, the number of submunitions found per square meter should also be used as an indication that clearance resources are used where they should be.