CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
OSLO, NORWAY

THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2012
SUMMARY of the morning sessions

Stockpile Destruction

After an introduction of the topic by Croatia as Co-Coordinator of the Working Group on Stockpile Destruction, Steve Goose from the Cluster Munition Coalition spoke from the podium as expert on the topic. He reminded states that solution existed to all the main issues perceived as obstacles to stockpile destruction in the past, such as costs, technical challenges and the convention’s eight-year deadline. The remarkable progress made so far on stockpile destruction is one of the success stories of the convention, and states are invited to share their progress with a wider community, for example by inviting the media and other observers to stockpile destruction events.

The session was marked by the Netherlands’ announcement that it has completed stockpile destruction.

Denmark confirmed it expects to complete stockpile destruction by the end of 2013, at a cost of about 2.5 million Euros. It intends to retain 2,700 submunitions. France reiterated that it would meet its August 2018 deadline and outlined steps taken so far to demilitarize about 5% of its stockpiled submunitions. Germany reiterated it is working towards completion by the end of 2015 – with two-thirds of the stocks (about 21 million submunitions) already destroyed. Germany explained how it intends to use retained cluster munitions for permitted purposes until 2020. Guinea-Bissau indicated that the plan to inventory stockpiles announced at the 2MSP had been disrupted by a recent military coup. It did not give a timeline for inventory but indicated that additional information would be shared as soon as possible.

FYR Macedonia expressed hope to report completion of the destruction of newly found stocks at the 2013 intersessional meeting. Mozambique announced that upon completion of the inventory of stockpiles, 22,700 submunitions had to be destroyed, which will be feasible well ahead of the convention’s deadline if enough support is received. The United Kingdom confirmed 77% of its stockpile had been destroyed so far and noted it is still working towards completion by the end of 2013, with 956 submunitions retained. Sweden said it would retain “a handful” of cluster munitions for permitted purposes and confirmed it is not contaminated with cluster munition remnants. Switzerland said it would cost about 25-35 million Swiss Francs to destroy its stocks and that it would retain “a limited number” of live cluster munitions, with further information to be shared in its initial transparency report.

Norway hailed progress made so far and invited states to explore cooperation possibilities at the regional and international levels. It shared the view that retention of live cluster munitions is not necessary and called on states to thoroughly report on use to avoid the risk of abuse of the exception.

Two signatories took the floor. Canada outlined steps taken so far to destroy part of its stocks and indicated that the market had been notified in July 2012 for the destruction of 12,600 DPICM. The contract will be attributed in the coming year and destruction will then take 12-24 months. Colombia recalled that it has completed stockpile destruction in 2009 and confirmed that it does not retain any cluster munitions.
The **Cluster Munition Coalition** said stockpile destruction is “prevention in action” and emphasized that proper implementation of Article 3 requires that all stocks under a state’s jurisdiction and control be identified and destroyed before completion is declared, including stocks remaining at former production facilities or elsewhere than the armed forces’ arsenal. The **GICHD** invited states to make use of its free and user-friendly cluster munition identification tool. The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action** called on states to store cluster munitions in a safe and secure manner while awaiting destruction, in accordance with the IATG and IMAS.

**States’ requests and offers of assistance on stockpile destruction**

**Denmark** and the **United Kingdom** said they are happy to share their experience and expertise on stockpile destruction. **Norway** stated its willingness to receive assistance requests. **Guinea-Bissau** and **Mozambique** requested help on stockpile destruction from the international community. **Switzerland** expressed interest in benefitting from existing expertise.

**Clearance**

**Ireland** and **Lao PDR** introduced the topic as Co-Coordinators of the Working Group on Clearance, and **Steinar Essen** from Norwegian People’s Aid intervened as an expert to stress that clearance is indeed doable since most contamination is limited in scope, and that the majority of states can complete clearance within five years.

**Afghanistan** reported 7.6 km$^2$ across 22 sites contaminated with cluster munition remnants, affecting 13 communities. Signatory **DR Congo** noted that it is reviewing its database in the Mine Ban Treaty context and that it would include cluster munitions remnants into it. It reported that operators had cleared 70 submunitions already in 2012. **Germany** said that technical survey of its contaminated firing range would start after the end of 2013 when the necessary “infrastructure” was in place and any necessary clearance would then follow. **Lao PDR** reported an estimated 8420 km$^2$ contaminated with cluster munition remnants, and said the initial results of the district-level survey should be available by 2013. **Lebanon** reported a total clearance of 37 km$^2$ as of August 2012, with 18 km$^2$ still to be cleared. **Mozambique** explained that it would tackle cluster munition remnants at the same time as antipersonnel mines, therefore completing clearance by 1 March 2014. It noted that there had been use of cluster munitions in three provinces but that further survey was required. **ITF Enhancing Human Security** said that if sufficient resources are made available, **Serbia** could complete clearance by 2016 and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** could deal with the problem within the next three years.

**Australia** encouraged states to share their experience and expertise in order to build collective knowledge on clearance.

The **Cluster Munition Coalition** underlined the following principles: the efficient implementation of Article 4 relies on a) good non-technical and technical surveys to establish the real extent of the problem, and b) prioritized clearance efforts, using the most efficient funding regimes and updated technical and clearance methods focused on clearing only confirmed contaminated areas.

The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action** called on states to make the best possible use of land release techniques and noted that gender- and age-sensitive risk education was crucial,
particularly in areas where contamination is not marked. It specifically supported the conduct of a cluster munition survey at the outset.

**States’ requests and offers of assistance on stockpile destruction**

Lebanon noted that its main challenge on clearance was funding. Mozambique called for support from the international community. Australia recalled its pledge of 100 million AUD for mine action in 2010-2014. The GiCHD reiterated its availability for support.

**Universalization announcements or updates**

DR Congo said its ratification bill is in the second reading in Senate.

**Mentions of the CMC or civil society**

DR Congo stated its appreciation of the close cooperation with civil society and thanked the ICBL-CMC for its contribution to victim assistance. Lebanon thanked NGOs for their support to clearance.