

Statement on Stockpile Destruction
First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Dubrovnik, X September 2015



Thank you Madam President.

The tremendous progress on stockpile destruction is evidence that this convention is working well. You referred to data compiled by the Cluster Munition Monitor – indeed States Parties have completed the destruction of 88% of the cluster munitions and 90% of the submunitions they had declared possessing. States Parties to the convention have destroyed a total of 1.3 million cluster munitions containing more than 160 million submunitions. This is a remarkable achievement. Not only is it a crucial component of the preventative nature of the convention, but it also provides a compelling argument for universalization. It shows that stockpile destruction, although technically demanding, is a perfectly feasible task for all states.

We heartily congratulate Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, Mozambique and Sweden for completing stockpile destruction over the past year. An impressive number of other states have indicated that they are on track to complete the task by the end of this year, including Botswana, Germany and Italy. We look forward to hearing the good news of their compliance with Article 3. The Dubrovnik Action Plan's Action 2.4 implies the possible creation of a voluntary template for declaring completion, and we offer our support to the Coordinators and to States Parties to this end. This is a creative idea that we hope will allow for celebration of milestones on the way to a world free of cluster munitions.

States that possess cluster munitions and have recently joined the convention must share detailed information about the nature and composition of their stockpiles. We thank Slovakia, for its statement to this effect. We look forward to the initial transparency reports of [Guinea, Slovakia and South Africa.] We are concerned that Guinea-Bissau, which has acknowledged that it stockpiles cluster munitions, is four years late in delivering the initial transparency report that should shed light on the nature of that stockpile.

Based on results thus far, the CMC believes more firmly than ever that no state should need to ask for an extension of its destruction deadline. All States Parties that have made their plans public intend to meet their deadline, and we trust that those that are developing plans will be able to complete destruction well ahead of the mandatory dates.

Only 10 States Parties, all in Europe, are currently retaining cluster munitions. The Dubrovnik Action Plan refers to an "appropriate" approach to the retention of cluster munitions for permitted purposes. In their transparency reports, statements, and national legislation, most

States Parties have expressed the view that what is “appropriate” is not to retain live cluster munitions or explosive submunitions. Many of those that initially retained high numbers have progressively reduced the numbers or have destroyed retained cluster munitions and not replaced them. The CMC believes that there are no compelling technical arguments for retention: most if not all states should determine that the minimum number absolutely necessary is zero. Others should report on planned and actual use. We hope to hear in particular from The Netherlands and Switzerland, which have yet to consume any of the large number of cluster munitions they retain.

Madam President – the spirit of cooperation and transparency that characterizes this convention has been yet again demonstrated by the offers we have heard over the years, from states and other organizations that have gained expertise on stockpile destruction and have offered to share it with interested parties. We hope States Parties will continue to place great importance on such exchanges and we look forward to supporting the implementation of the Dubrovnik Action Plan.