

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 15-18 APRIL 2013**



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

Stockpile Destruction and Retention

The session on stockpile destruction and retention was chaired by **Croatia** and **Spain** as Co-Coordiators of the working group. They emphasized the major progress made on stockpile destruction and cautioned that it is not time yet to be fully satisfied as cluster munitions still destroy lives.

Bulgaria said stockpile destruction planning is in its final stages and that more information would be provided at the 4th Meeting of States Parties (4MSP). **Chile** expressed the hope to complete stockpile destruction by the 4MSP or by the end of 2013. **Côte d'Ivoire** announced the completion of its stockpile destruction with assistance from UNMAS, without any retention. This entailed the destruction of 68 RBK bombs, from 26 January to 6 February 2013. **Croatia** said it should complete stockpile destruction in 2014. **France** reported the destruction of about 2 million sub-munitions so far and reiterated its target date of 2018 for completion. **FYR Macedonia** outlined a plan developed in cooperation with NPA, whereby destruction will be completed on 31 October 2013, with national, German and Norwegian funding. **Japan** reiterated its goal of completing stockpile destruction in 2015.

Spain reported that a destruction plan was currently under study for the 3,600 cluster munitions remaining in a commercial company's stock. **South Sudan**, a non-signatory, noted that it does not stockpile cluster munitions. **Sweden** said 40% of the stocks had been dismantled by December 2012, and that 125 sub-munitions would be retained for training purposes. **Switzerland** explained the steps it is taking to ensure destruction by its deadline, and said its upcoming transparency report would state how many items would be retained for the development of countermeasures. The **United Kingdom** said that as of March 2013, more than 83% of its cluster munition inventory representing more than 32.5 million sub munitions had been destroyed, and that completion was expected by the end of 2013. It reiterated having no plan to retain sub-munitions, but reserving the right to do so.

The **United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action** encouraged states to elaborate plans and to start destruction without delay. It stated its willingness to provide support.

Steve Goose spoke on behalf of the **CMC** and pointed out that the rapid progress made on stockpile destruction dispels doubts raised about the destruction of stockpiles being too costly or technically challenging. He called on states that possess stockpiles but that have not yet declared them in their transparency report to do so urgently. He also stressed the CMC's view that there are no compelling arguments for retaining live cluster munitions and submunitions for training purposes.

Statements on stockpile destruction and retention are available at <http://bit.ly/12HH3Ux>

Clearance and Risk Reduction

Ireland and **Lao PDR** chaired the session, as Co-Coordinator of the working group on clearance and risk reduction. **Norway** introduced a draft paper that aims to “clarify the procedures and principles related to what completion of Article 4 means” and that recommends language for a declaration of completion. After consultation with interested stakeholders, a final paper will be presented at the 4MSP.

Afghanistan reported that 22 contaminated sites remained, covering an area of 7.5 km² that could be released within a year if financial resources were available. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reiterated its goal of completing clearance by the end of 2015. **Croatia** reported the release of 767.142 m² in 2012 and said that as of 12 April 2013, some 4.03 km² remained contaminated. **DR Congo**, a signatory, explained the various phases of its 9-month general survey launched in March 2013 that replaces the former General Mine Action Survey and General Mine Action Assessment.

Lao PDR referred to ongoing survey trials and expressed “hope that the estimate of 8,470 km² of cluster munition contamination will be reduced steadily as the results from the survey come in.” **Lebanon** reported releasing 2.8 million m² in 2012, and that 15,035,031 m² remained to be released. During the session on transparency measures, Lebanon said that a shortage of demining teams seriously jeopardized its goal of completing clearance in 2016. **Mauritania** announced that clearance by NPA would start on 1 June 2013. **Montenegro** said that general survey would be conducted in 2013. **Norway** reiterated its goal of completing clearance by the end of 2013.

Switzerland reported a contribution of 17 million Swiss Francs in 2012, supporting risk reduction and clearance of cluster munitions, landmines and explosive remnants of war. It emphasized that the political will of States Parties to establish and conduct effective and efficient operations remained a decisive factor for a successful implementation of the Convention.

Australia, **Germany** and the **United Kingdom** said they would further study the Presidency’s draft paper on Article 4 completion. They cautioned against creating new obligations or overly prescriptive guidance, and **Australia** also recommended that references to the new IMAS on land release be added to the paper.

The **UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action** explained how national injury surveillance systems can make a significant contribution to mine action programs, *inter alia* as a source of data informing prioritization. It made a number of suggestions on the Presidency’s draft paper, such as adding a reference to injury surveillance and strengthening language on the quality of data entered into databases. The **International Committee of the Red Cross** commented extensively on the Presidency’s draft paper and cautioned that it should not be read as promoting a different standard from the IMAS and NMAS.

The **Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)** introduced the amended International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on land release, “the most important” of the standards, which now place greater emphasis on evidence-based approaches to clearance to increase operational efficiency. They should bring about changes to National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) and to Standard Operating Procedures.

Speaking on behalf of the **CMC**, Amelie Chayer encouraged affected states to make the best possible use of land release techniques and to urgently set up official and complete plans for survey and clearance if this has not yet been done. She shared comments on the Presidency’s draft paper and offered assurances of the CMC’s readiness to further work on the draft with Norway.

Statements on clearance are available at <http://bit.ly/11BBpCa>