



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Statement on Storage and Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Agenda item 10(b)

San José, 3 September 2014

Delivered by Ms. Abigail Hartley, Chief of Policy, Advocacy and Public Information, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action¹ (IACG-MA), comprising 14 United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Stockpile destruction is so far one of the success stories under this Convention where implementation has worked very well.

The United Nations is pleased to see the level of progress made under Article 3. Nineteen States Parties have declared completion. Some 130 million explosive sub-munitions have been destroyed. The remaining States Parties that have declared stockpiles have indicated they expect to complete destruction well in advance of their deadlines.

The United Nations congratulates Denmark, Macedonia, and the United Kingdom for completing their stockpile destruction since the 4MSP and commends the good practice exhibited by Denmark and the United Kingdom for completing their obligations well before their deadlines of 2018. This sets a positive example for the other 14 States Parties who have yet to complete their stockpile destruction. Early predictions that stockpile destruction would be slow due to the costly and complex nature of the process appear unjustified. This bodes well for speedy implementation of the Convention and should promote universalization efforts.

The United Nations reminds States Parties of their commitment to the obligations of the Convention and reiterates its commitment to support States requiring assistance in stockpile assessments and destruction. Throughout the last year, the United Nations has assisted Bosnia

¹ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer status), and the World Bank (Observer status).

and Herzegovina, Georgia, Libya, and South Sudan in stockpile management and destruction of cluster munitions.

In Afghanistan, UNMAS assisted the mine action programme with the destruction of cluster munitions even prior to the country becoming a State Party. The United Nations commends Afghanistan for no longer having stockpiles of cluster munitions within the Afghan military forces.

In Mozambique, UNDP and Norwegian Peoples Aid are assisting the government to plan a stockpile destruction project that, if implemented according to plan, will result in the destruction of Mozambique's stockpile of cluster munition well before the country's article 3 deadline.

Applying international standards and best practices to stockpile management is important to prevent accidental explosions of government-owned depots and the diversion of weapons from legal to illicit markets. UNMAS is increasingly contributing to the reduction and prevention of the risks and the humanitarian impact associated with unsafe or obsolete stockpiles by responding to requests for training, technical advice and assessments, and provision of equipment.

In Côte d'Ivoire, UNMAS has trained the Ivorian security services to safely manage and secure weapons and ammunition and constructed and renovated 13 weapons and ammunition storage facilities including five major ammunition depots. Côte d'Ivoire now has strong capacity and expertise in this field and UNMAS has facilitated exchange of best practices and South-South cooperation through supporting visits of representatives from Chad, Darfur, the DRC and the African Union.

The United Nations re-emphasizes that the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) provide a solid framework for disposing of stockpiles in the safest manner possible, and encourages their application.

In closing, the United Nations commends Spain and Albania for their work as Coordinators for stockpile destruction and retention.

I thank you, Mr. President.