

Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

23 December 2014

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First Preparatory Meeting for the First Review Conference

Geneva, 5 February 2015

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Presentation on the review of the Vientiane Action Plan

Review of the Vientiane Action Plan V. Stockpile destruction

Submitted by the President to the Fifth Meeting of States Parties

Key messages

1. With States Parties having collectively destroyed over 80 per cent of their reported cluster munition stockpiles, and thereby well on track to complete all destruction in conformity with their respective deadlines stipulated by the Convention, national ownership and commitment for the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions have proven to be very high.
2. The Convention has been a catalyser for the development of new destruction techniques which in some cases have helped accelerate the disposal process and reduce costs. States' achievements to date on compliance with Article 3 highlight stockpile destruction as a success story of this Convention, directly contributing to its aims of preventing the proliferation and use of cluster munitions. Despite this success continued efforts are needed to ensure that all remaining stockpiles are disposed of in a timely manner in compliance with Article 3. This would also include, to provide international cooperation and assistance as and when requested.

Scope

3. Thirty-four States Parties have reported that they have or previously had cluster munitions stockpiles and thereby also obligations under Article 3.

Progress

4. Among these States Parties, 62 per cent have declared being in compliance with their obligations under Article 3 having already completed its stockpile destruction; two already before the entry into force, nine in 2011, five in 2012, one in 2013 and four in 2014.

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Two States Parties later reported having identified additional cluster munitions requiring destruction.

5. According to available information, since entry into force States Parties have destroyed 1.16 million cluster munitions containing nearly 140 million sub-munitions. Among the 15 States Parties that still hold stocks, 13 have provided information on the quantity of the cluster munitions and sub-munitions remaining. All States Parties have declared that they will be able to achieve the destruction of their stocks within the eight-year deadline and nearly all of these have provided a timeline for the destruction of their respective stockpiles.

Challenges highlighted since the First Meeting of States Parties

6. How to maintain the momentum for rapid destruction of stockpiles, and to utilize the provisions agreed for international cooperation and assistance.

46. How ensure that the amount of explosive sub-munitions retained or acquired does not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for the purposes permitted under Article 3.6 of the Convention.

Recommendations

7. For further practical, time bound and purposeful guidance in the implementation of the Convention, and further to the legal obligations under Article 3, particular efforts should be considered with reference to:

(a) Plan

(i) Endeavouring to have a plan in place as soon as possible for the destruction of stocks, including an estimated completion date, national resources to be attributed, and any requirements for international support, and begin physical destruction as soon as possible;

(ii) Ensuring that the plan is in compliance with international standards relating to the protection of public health and environment.

(b) Compliance

(i) When new, previously unknown stockpiles are identified after declaration of compliance, report such discoveries, develop plans for their destruction and destroy them as a matter of urgent priority;

(ii) Ensuring that the amount of explosive sub-munitions retained or acquired does not exceed the number absolutely necessary for purposes allowed under Article 3.6 and report regularly on the past and planned use of retained munitions.

(c) Transparency and confidence building

(i) As a measure of promoting transparency and confidence building, highlight these plans in annual transparency reports and if deemed necessary, at Meetings of States Parties and/or other informal meetings;

(ii) Encouraging States parties to maintain transparency as an important element for the full implementation of Article 3 by providing clear information on the status and progress of stockpile destruction programmes.

- (d) Exchange of best practice
- Encouraging exchange among States parties and expert organisations of good and cost effective stockpile destruction practices including on safety, environmental issues and efficiency.
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