



9MSP CCM - Statement on storage and stockpile destruction

Geneva, 03.09.19

Mister President,

Article 3 is one of the central provisions of the Convention as it has an important preventive effect by ensuring that stockpiles are responsibly disposed of within a set deadline. We welcome the fact that most States Parties having obligations under this article have so far met them within the timeframe of eight years set by the Convention. Since some States have now submitted or indicated that they will need to submit an extension request, we encourage them to ensure that they fulfil their obligations well within their extended deadline.

We also welcome the actions and objectives set forth in the Dubrovnik Action Plan on stockpile destruction, which contribute to consolidating the positive momentum in this area and allows to assess the progress in this field, as presented in the Progress Report (CCM/MSP/2019/11). In this context, we would like to stress that all States Parties have an obligation under article 7 to submit initial and/or annual reports including information regarding the implementation of article 3 obligations. The fact that two State Parties with article 3 obligations have not submitted their annual report or their initial transparency report is a cause of concern. We encourage them to submit their annual report or their initial transparency report as well as to develop and share a resourced plan for the destruction of their stockpiles as soon as possible.

The provisions set forth in the Dubrovnik Action Plan underline the importance of transparency with regard to stockpile destruction and retention. In this context, Switzerland wishes to provide delegations with an update on the status of disposal of its cluster munitions stockpile.

As indicated in our article 7 report for the calendar year 2018, Switzerland is pleased to announce that it has completed the destruction of all cluster munitions under its jurisdiction or control by the end of 2018, that is well within the deadline set by article 3.2



The process for the disposal of cluster munitions followed the regulations of the Swiss Department of Defence which apply to any type of military equipment including ammunition. Accordingly, the process of taking cluster munitions out of active service, the selection of the company for their disposal as well as transportation to the disposal site and the disposal itself were implemented in accordance with established standards and practices. The disposal plan aimed at minimising the necessary resources, guaranteeing the highest safety and security standards related to the transport and disposal as well as at maximising the recovery of recyclable materials and minimising the environmental impact. In order to ensure that these standards are complied with, the Swiss authorities regularly conducted audits of the selected disposal company.

Since the entry into force of the Convention, the Swiss armed forces destroyed all of the original 200'000+ 155mm and 120mm artillery projectiles comprising more than 11 million sub-munitions that it detained.

With regard to the retention of cluster munitions for permitted purposes according to article 3, paragraph 6, Switzerland still retains 52 cluster munitions. These items are retained for the purpose of developing countermeasures and training of EOD personnel.

Let me conclude by underlining the record-keeping challenge we faced in the destruction process. The stockpile numbers used during the whole destruction process were based on the original procurement figures, minus the numbers of used munitions. During the destruction process, however, we realised that the amount of ammunition shipped to the disposal company and the stockpile numbers did not match. Following investigation, it appeared that the discrepancy was caused by inaccuracies in record-keeping at the time of procurement. In our last transparency report, in an effort of communicating transparently to States Parties, we provided the actual disposal numbers as reported by the contractor.

Switzerland intends to continue providing transparent information on the disposal of its cluster munitions and other relevant measures. I have in front of me the signed



Article 3 Declaration of Compliance adopted in the context of the 8 MSP that I will transmit this very day to the CCM Presidency.

I thank you, Mister President.