



UK Mission
Geneva

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**AGENDA ITEM 8(B) STORAGE AND STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION
STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM**

H.E Ambassador Liddle
Geneva, 26 November 2020

Thank you Mr President,

In accordance with Article 3 of the Convention, the UK had withdrawn all of our 190,828 cluster munitions by 30 May 2008 and had destroyed the entire stockpile, comprising over 38.7 million submunitions, by the end of 2013.

Action 2.5 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan stipulates that States which identify new, previously unknown stockpiles of cluster munitions after a declaration of compliance has been made, must commit to report such findings without delay to meetings of the Convention and in Article 7 reports. In this regard, the UK has the duty to report to the Conference the discovery in June of this year by a private British organisation of a previously unknown stockpile of munitions that contravene the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010, which gives effect to the Convention in UK domestic law. The munitions consist of four 120mm High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) Mortar bombs, each containing 24 bomblets, as well as two boxes each containing 40 BL755 Warheads, which were formerly used in the UK's 600 lb Cluster Bomb. No other munitions of concern were found at other associated sites.

The organisation alerted the Ministry of Defence to the discovery of the munitions in a timely fashion and are now assisting with their destruction. As the organisation does not have the capability to dispose of the munitions themselves, the Ministry of Defence is seeking approval to carry out their destruction, in line with our obligations under the Convention. The munitions are provisionally scheduled to be destroyed in mid-December 2020.

The UK has informed Austria and Australia, as the coordinators on stockpile destruction, of these developments, and we will continue to keep them updated throughout the process of destruction. We will also account fully for the discovery

and destruction of the munitions in our next annual Article 7 transparency report, due by 30 April 2021.

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