



**Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster
Munitions,**

agenda item 8b. Storage and Stockpile Destruction

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Statement of the Slovak Republic

by

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Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

as this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the second Review Conference. Allow me also to express our sincere appreciation to Switzerland, to you Mr. President and your team, for exemplary preparatory process and organizing this Review Conference in such difficult and unpredictable circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are fully confident that under your leadership we will make this Review Conference a success. You can count on full support of the Slovak delegation.

Mr. President,

This Review Conference marks the 10th anniversary of the Convention on Cluster Munition and it is indeed Slovakia's first review conference in the position of the state party. Let me assure you that Slovakia remains fully committed to the Convention and to meet all its obligations. Now, allow me to provide you with an update on the progress that Slovakia has been making regarding stockpile destruction of its cluster munition in accordance with Article 3 of the CCM.

The Convention entered into force for Slovakia on the 1st January 2016. Hence, stipulated deadline for destruction of its cluster munition stockpiles is the 1st January 2024.

With a view to join the Convention and to demonstrate, our commitment to its objectives, Slovakia has taken decisions to destroy its cluster munition stockpiles already before its formal accession to the CCM. In 2013, the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces approved a "Regulation on disposal of cluster munitions belonging under the CCM". Subsequently, in November 2013, the cluster munitions were removed from operational stocks and put into ammunition depots marked as decommissioned, in line with Article 3, paragraph 1 requirements. In 2014, the Slovak Government approved the Decree No. 22/2014 and the "Action Plan for the Implementation of Commitments of the Slovak Republic under the Convention", which allocated financial sources to proceed with the destruction of the cluster munition.

In 2013, Slovakia had at its disposal altogether 13 types of cluster munitions. Since then, Slovakia has actively and extensively been destroying its cluster munition stockpiles. We have achieved considerable progress in particular in connection to the 12 out of 13 cluster munition types. Firstly, we would like to inform you, that since 2013 to this date, we have successfully destroyed 91% out of 12 types of these cluster munitions in Slovakia. In concrete numbers, we destroyed 40 712 submunitions out of 44 584. We have been actively destroying these 12 types through our national capacities in Slovakia. Let me further underline, that we have completely destroyed 3 types of cluster munitions including its submunitions by the end of 2019 (namely AO-10, ZAB-2,5P and ZAB-2,5T).

Slovakia has successfully continued in fulfilling its commitments under Article 3 also this year despite serious epidemiological situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, we completely destroyed additional 2 types of cluster munition (namely BFK AO-2,5 RT and BFK PTAB-2,5), which was more than originally planned by our armed forces, and as we reported in the plan of destruction which was attached to our last national transparency report in form J. We will provide detailed information on cluster munition destroyed in 2020 in our next national transparency report.

To sum up, out of the above mentioned 12 types of cluster munitions, we have already completely destroyed 5 types. This leaves 7 types of cluster munition to be destroyed, of which more than 50% has already been destroyed. We believe that the above mentioned data of the current state of destruction, truly demonstrates our continued commitment to destroy them ahead of our due destruction deadline.

Secondly, let me now turn to the remaining cluster munition M-26. At the beginning, we believed we would be able to destroy this munition type using our national capacities and facilities. The Military Technical and Testing Institute Záhorie (VTSÚ Záhorie) has performed national study on the development of a new delaboration process to destroy M-26. In the course of this study, we completely destroyed 6 rockets M-26, including 3 864 pieces of their submunition. This study showed, that even though Slovakia is able to dismantle rocket M-26 as such, we encountered objective technical difficulties concerning environmental impacts of the destruction process as is required under the Article 3 paragraph 2 of the Convention.

Therefore, our current efforts are underway to find viable and the most effective solution to complete the destruction of remaining cluster munition M-26 using international cooperation and foreign capacities capable of destroying this particular munition. To this stage, we are in the process of formalization of a specific project and its procedural attributes in cooperation with our foreign partners and we'll inform you about destruction plan of M-26, once the project will be fully finalized and ratified.

Mr. President,

to conclude, allow me to reiterate Slovakia's full support for the Convention and assure you of our unwavering effort to destroy all of our cluster munitions by the end of 2023.