



ICRC

Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Geneva, 3-5 September 2018

International Committee of the Red Cross Statement on Storage and Stockpile Destruction

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) commends the 33 States Parties that have completed the destruction of their stockpiles to date. This includes Croatia, Cuba, Slovenia and Spain, each of which have completed the destruction of their stockpiles in the past year. The track record of full compliance by States Parties with the Convention's stockpile destruction provisions over the Convention's first 10 years is a testament to its success and a credit to the good will of those States Parties – and those that have supported them through technical and financial assistance.

The ICRC encourages all States Parties with stockpile destruction obligations under Article 3 to uphold this positive record by destroying any remaining stockpiles at the earliest possible opportunity and, in any event, within their treaty deadlines. We take the opportunity to remind States Parties of the obligation to ensure that destruction methods comply with applicable international standards for protecting public health and the environment.

The ICRC urges continued transparency by States Parties as to the steps they are taking and their progress towards fulfilling their treaty obligations, notably through the timely submission of Article 7 reports. Going a step further, the ICRC encourages States Parties that have indicated completion of their stockpile destruction through their annual transparency reports to submit an official declaration of compliance with their Article 3 obligations. In this sense the ICRC welcomes the working paper introduced by Croatia and Mozambique.

Thank you.