



PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA
GENEVA



REPRESENTACIÓN PERMANENTE DE ESPAÑA
GINEBRA

Geneva, March 26th, 2013

Excellency,

We have the pleasure to address you in our capacity as coordinators of the Working Group on Stockpile Destruction, including retention, of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. As you know, the next CCM Intersessional Meeting will take place in Geneva between the 15th and the 18th April.

Article 3.2 of the Convention sets the main guiding principle in the field of stockpile destruction: "Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all cluster munitions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article as soon as possible but not later than eight years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party. Each State Party undertakes to ensure that destruction methods comply with applicable international standards for protecting public health and the environment".

At the same time, according to Article 3.6, "notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1 of this Convention, the retention or acquisition of a limited number of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for the development of and training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance or destruction techniques, or for the development of cluster munition counter-measures, is permitted".

As you know, your country was among the group of 30 States that first ratified this Convention, thus allowing its entry into force on August 1st 2010, less than two years after it was adopted in Oslo. For all these highly committed countries, the 8-year period set for stockpile destruction in the above-mentioned articles will expire by 2018.

We are now almost half-way through this 8-year period and we think it would be worthwhile to take advantage of the Intersessional Meeting to launch a debate on the current state of play in the implementation of the above-mentioned articles. Best practices provided by countries that ratified the CCM at such an early stage, could help others to gain momentum towards the full implementation of our Convention. With this in mind, we would like to encourage you to make a statement on your national experience in stockpile destruction at the Plenary session, to be held on Wednesday 17th, starting at 3:00 p.m.

Vesna VUKOVIC
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Croatia to the UN and WTO

Javier GIL CATALINA
Ambassador
Head of the Delegation of Spain to the
Conference on Disarmament

To the Permanent Representatives of the
First Ratifying States to the Convention on
Cluster Munitions
Geneva