

CCM STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION CONCEPT NOTE:

Enhancing Implementation of Action 2 of the Dubrovnik Action Plan (Stockpile Destruction) up to the 2nd Review Conference (2RC)

Presented by Australia and Austria

1. Background to Work Plan Context

Under Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, each States Party is required to declare and destroy all stockpiled cluster munitions under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but no later than eight years after entry into force of the Convention for that State Party. Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Convention requires that each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions.

By the 9MSP in September 2019, there remained only 5 States Parties with obligations under Article 3 - Bulgaria, Guinea Bissau, Peru, Slovakia and South Africa. In the period up to the 2RC, however, the Coordinators intend to especially focus their attention on those States Parties with completion deadlines in 2020: Bulgaria (1 October 2020) and continue engagement with Guinea Bissau (1 May 2019) with a particular view to consulting on further action arising from submission of its initial report.

Stockpile destruction under the CCM is the Dubrovnik Action Plan's Action 2 and will provide the primary basis from which this concept note's activities to achieve the outlined objectives will be derived. Action 2 encourages States Parties with stockpile destruction obligations to develop a resourced plan, apply an appropriate approach to retention and increase exchanges of promising practices. States Parties that have complied with the obligations are also encouraged to announce their compliance and increase exchanges of promising practices with those still with commitments. All States Parties are required to act upon any unexpected developments regarding previously unknown stockpiles of cluster munitions.

2. Objectives

- Liaise closely with the State Party with a completion deadline in 2020 to ensure that Bulgaria complies with its obligations within the timeframe agreed by 9MSP;
- Facilitate international cooperation and assistance to Guinea Bissau in response to its request to identify and destroy cluster munitions for destruction and for their subsequent destruction
- Work with Peru on its recently submitted extension request.
- Encourage the 2 States Parties - South Africa and Slovakia - with deadlines beyond 2020 to accurately report on progress achieved to facilitate timely completion through bilateral engagement;

- Facilitate increased levels of reporting on matters pertaining to Article 3 implementation through bilateral engagement;
- Facilitate increased exchange of information through letters, teleconferences and meetings on good and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices including on safety, environmental impact and efficiency;
- Interact with the States Parties that have retained cluster munitions for the permitted uses under Article 3, to continue to remind States Parties of the requirements to highlight this in their annual reports;
- Encourage States that complete destruction of stockpiles to declare compliance with Article 3, through the Declaration of Compliance template adopted by the 8MSP.

3. Strategy

- Continue working closely with Bulgaria which at the 9MSP was granted an extension of 12 months up to 1 October 2020 pending the provision of a detailed project management and work plan to be included in an updated extension request to be considered at the 2nd Review Conference;
- Continue engagement with the Guinea Bissau, which has provided an initial report in accordance with Article 7;
- Work with Peru on actioning its extension request;
- Liaise with Slovakia and South Africa on reporting on their progress of complying with the extension requests.
- Facilitate the development of partnerships/Country Coalitions and increase exchanges of promising practices among the States Parties with Article 3 obligations, States Parties that have completed the destruction of stockpiles, donor States and international operators to support those states needing assistance with Article 3 obligations;
- Engage bilaterally to identify obstacles to stockpile destruction in States Parties with Article 3 obligations and explore ways to overcome them in a collaborative manner through outreach activities such as sending letters and/or emails, organizing meetings with Geneva-based stakeholders or capital-based representatives in the margins of other key disarmament events up to the Review Conference, and organising teleconferences where feasible;
- Contact bilaterally including through formal correspondence States Parties that have retained cluster munitions but have not provided adequate information on their use as required under Article 3.8 of the Convention and Action 2.3 of the DAP;
- Collaborate with other members of the Coordination Committee on relevant issues, in particular when mandates overlap.

4. Expected Outputs

- That all States Parties with Article 3 obligations provide an update on their Article 3 obligations through their Article 7 transparency report;

- That by the 2RC, Bulgaria has provided a detailed project management and work plan to be included in an updated extension request to be considered at the 2nd Review Conference.
- That States likely to miss their 2023 deadlines have submitted an extension request by 1 December 2020.
- That the States that have finished the destruction of stockpiles exchange relevant information on good and cost-effective stockpile destruction practices;
- All the 13 States Parties that have retained submunitions in accordance with Article 3.8 of the Convention comprehensively report on the past and planned use of retained munitions, through their Article 7 reports.

5. Timelines

- In cases where States Parties were believed to have stockpiled cluster munitions at some point in time (based on publicly available information) and have not yet submitted a transparency report will be encouraged to do so (letters/bilateral meetings)- **by 13 March 2020**;
- Work with Peru on its submitted extension request by **10 July 2020**.
- Focus on consulting with Guinea-Bissau on further action arising from its initial report- regarding its current obligations under Article 3 - by **4 September 2020**;
- Facilitate the development of partnerships and increase exchanges of promising practices among the target States Parties, States Parties that have finished the destruction of stockpiles, donor States and international operators through outreach activities (letters, emails, phone calls), and effective use of existing electronic and web-based dissemination tools – **up to 2nd Review Conference**
- Identify obstacles to stockpile destruction in the target States Parties and explore ways to overcome them in a collaborative manner through outreach activities such as sending letters and/or emails, organizing meetings with Geneva-based stakeholders or capital-based representatives in the margins of other key disarmament events during the year – **up to 2nd Review Conference**

6. Estimated Budget

Limited costs, depending on the strategy adopted, as most outreach will be conducted in Geneva or in the margins of other disarmament related meetings.

7. Strategy Implementers

- Austria - Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction
- Australia - Coordinator on Stockpile Destruction
- CCM Implementation Support Unit

8. Potential Implementing Partners

- Other members of the CCM Coordination Committee
- States Parties and signatory States that have fulfilled obligations under Article 3
- Donor States
- International Organisations
- International NGOs / operators and other technical organisations