



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

**Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Oslo, 13 September 2012**

Statement on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

**Delivered by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS
on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)**

Mr. President,

I deliver the following statement on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA, comprising the 14 United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds, and Programmes involved in mine action.

We welcome the reports on progress in stockpile destruction by States Parties and other states and we also thank Mister Steve Goose of the Cluster Muniton Coalition for the presentation on the challenges ahead for this pillar.

The United Nations has repeatedly mentioned the importance of stockpile destruction of cluster munitions as both disarmament and a preventative humanitarian measure. Therefore, it is crucial that States Parties, and signatories, destroy their stockpiles as soon as possible.

The United Nations supports considerations outlined in the Oslo Progress Report that a key question for discussion is how to ensure that adequate assistance for the completion of stockpile destruction obligations is provided.

As has been the case in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, South Sudan and elsewhere, the United Nations remains available to assist states parties and other actors in preparing and implementing destruction plans in accordance with relevant international standards. In many instances international financial support is required to ensure a timely and effective destruction of the stocks of cluster munitions and submunitions.

Donor states may consider that ensuring international funding for the early destruction of cluster munitions stockpiles could work as a positive universalization measure. Another consideration could be given to include stockpile destruction as part of an understanding of the scope of 'completion' and be supported by related initiatives carried out by donors, the United Nations and others.

Pending destruction of stockpiles, it is the view of the United Nations that States Parties and other actors should ensure cluster munitions are stored in a safe and secure manner, and in accordance with the highest existing standards, including the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). These Guidelines were developed by the Office of Disarmament Affairs with the full involvement of UNMAS as well as technical expertise from Member States before being welcomed by General Assembly last year (A/RES/66/42). Ensuring the safe and secure management of stockpiles is a further preventative measure that could be taken until such time as States Parties fulfil their obligations.

Thank you,