



ICRC

Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Geneva, 2-4 September 2019

International Committee of the Red Cross Statement on Stockpile Destruction

The ICRC congratulates Botswana and Switzerland for having completed the destruction of their cluster munition stockpiles in the past year.

The ICRC commends the Analysis Group of Article 3 Extension Requests for its work, which it has undertaken thoroughly and with diligence, in accordance with the Methodology for analysing requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention introduced by the Netherlands and Sweden. The ICRC welcomes this Methodology, which aims to ensure a uniform approach to all extension requests, and looks forward to its adoption by States Parties at this Meeting.

The ICRC notes that one State Party has submitted a request for extension of its stockpile destruction deadline to this Meeting of States Parties. This is the first time the Meeting of States Parties is seized with an extension request under Article 3 of the Convention. This Meeting provides an opportunity to discuss how to ensure obligations under the Convention are implemented by all States Parties in good faith and without undue delay. In this regard, the ICRC urges continued transparency by States Parties as to the status of and progress towards fulfilling their treaty obligations, notably through the timely submission of Article 7 reports. In this way, the Convention community can identify challenges and develop solutions to meet States' individual needs.

The ICRC wishes to stress the importance of those States seeking an extension providing clarity about the progress and remaining challenges in implementation in a timely manner. It is critical that they submit with their extension request a concrete and measurable plan so as to allow for a proper assessment of their request and for monitoring its implementation during the extension period. An effective implementation plan is also an essential means to avoid repeated extension requests.

To conclude, the ICRC urges all States Parties with obligations under Article 3 to destroy their remaining stockpiles at the earliest possible opportunity and, in any event, within their treaty deadlines. We also 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.

Thank you.