

Statement

by E. Druc, Deputy Head of MCD, MFAIE
to the Berlin Conference on the destruction of Cluster munitions
25-26 June 2009

Mr Chair,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me join the previous speakers in thanking the two countries for their initiative in organizing this event aimed at starting preparations for implementation of one of the most complex tasks within CCM which is the destruction of stockpiles. It is also a good approach for raising awareness and transparency and assisting State Parties to fulfil their CCM obligations. I would also like to thank UNDP whose financial assistance has made possible attending of this meeting.

As a participant and active supporter of the Oslo process and in accordance with the Convention provisions, RM would wish to be among the first countries to report on the full completion of the art. 3 para 2 and is ready, with an appropriate financial assistance, to proceed to an early destruction of all its stockpiles with no any plans to produce or to acquire them in the future. This task does not seem too convoluted since our stockpiles of CM are relatively insignificant. The National Army has never used its cluster munitions and does not plan to enlarge, to modernize or to produce them whatsoever.

To be mentioned that the Republic of Moldova has a certain technical expertise in carrying out various ammunition destruction programs which are, usually, realized at our training area located some 35 kilometres East of Chisinau. The method usually used for this purpose is *by open pit demolition*. But in the case of cluster munitions, we are afraid that the destruction capacity of the training area could be below the required parameters. There is a danger that a number of unexploded units could be spread by the open detonation on a large area which are very difficult to discover afterwards. In addition such a destruction method does not fully comply with the provisions on the protection of public health and environment.

The dismantling of munitions in an appropriate factory conditions with qualified assistance of experts would be a safer way which is actually beyond the capabilities of the National Army and even of the country in all. To this end the MOD has approached the OSCE Mission in Moldova for assistance to destroy the cluster munitions stockpiles. The OSCE experts have evaluated the stockpiles and suggested to carry out the destruction outside the country. A fund raising request for this purpose has been launched among the OSCE participating states.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew my country's request for the assistance and to remind the interested state parties which may wish to make a contribution that they can kindly do it either bilaterally or through the OSCE project. Any of these ways would be very much appreciated by us.

Thank you for your attention!