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General and complete disarmament: observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* [A/68/150](#).

** The information in the present report was received after the issuance of the main report.



II. Replies received from Governments

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]

[10 July 2013]

Colombia has a comprehensive regulatory framework that sets the parameters for the control and destruction of returnable military equipment and also includes environmental regulations relating to the disarmament and arms control processes.

This regulatory framework corresponds in various respects to international regulations, including in particular the objectives of General Assembly resolution [67/37](#), and comprises:

- Act No. 87 of 23 November 1993 establishing norms for internal oversight of State entities and agencies
- Decree No. 2535 of 1993 establishing norms for the control of and trade in arms, ammunition, explosives and accessories
- Act No. 1476 of 2011 establishing rules on administrative responsibility for loss of or damage to assets owned or used by the Ministry of Defence and bodies attached to it or to law enforcement

In Colombia, returnable equipment which cannot be repaired is sent to the weapons storage facilities of the administrative directorates of the armed forces so that the weapons unit can declare it unusable or obsolete, carry out the destruction procedure and strike it definitively from the inventories.

The expenditure authority has the necessary means to contract the services of specialized waste destruction companies in order to ensure that final disposal is carried out in compliance with the environmental norms in force. Those involved in the process verify such compliance in terms of conditions, quantities and related factors, entering that information in the records along with full identifying information on the equipment, including serial numbers and markings.

In recent years the company Sidenal S.A. has been the service provider contracted to destroy military equipment in compliance with the conditions established in environmental protection legislation for the control of atmospheric emissions, dumping and solid waste management.

The equipment assigned to the various operations of the Colombian armed forces does not include weapons of mass destruction, i.e. nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Similarly, Colombia shares the position of the General Assembly with regard to the Member States' obligation not to design, produce, acquire or use such weapons because they are considered a threat to humanity owing to the harmful and indiscriminate effects which their stockpiling and use can have on human beings and the environment.