INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON CLUSTER MUNITION,
GENEVA, 16-19 APRIL 2012

Statement by Mr. Predrag Rakocevic, Adviser in the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro

At the outset I would like to welcome you to the post and to congratulate on the way you are conducting the meeting. We are glad to be in your able and professional hands and as always pledge our cooperation and support in the fulfillment of your duties.

As a member state of the Convention on the cluster munitions, Montenegro fully supports every effort for the univerzalisation and effective implementation of the Convention. In that regard, Montenegro destroyed all stockpiles of cluster munitions on its territory and established effective social and health care system for the protection of victims of cluster munitions.

In compliance with the Article 5 of the Convention, Montenegro has established mechanisms for providing adequate age and gender sensitive assistance to the victims of cluster munitions, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as mechanisms for their social and economic inclusion.

Montenegro is a member state of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, and it has established all relevant mechanisms and national legislative for effective implementation of the Convention. Montenegro has social and health care programs which are applicable to the victims of cluster munitions.

Providing of emergency health assistance to victims in place is prescribed by the Law on Emergency Health Assistance, which is carried out by the Institute for urgent health care. Emergency medical assistance, as a special area of health care, performed at the primary level, is organized with the aim of undertaking a necessary and urgent medical intervention, where the failure of its undertaking would jeopardize the lives and health of citizens or cause a permanent damage and it is carried out in line with this Law and regulations on health care and health insurance. Emergency assistance shall be provided on the spot, during the primary emergency transport, as well as in the emergency units, 24 hours nonstop.
According to the Law on the health assurance, all victims of war and victims of any kind of explosion in the time of peace, have right on medical care, rehabilitation and prosthesis, free of charge. Although this law recognizes the category of victims of cluster munitions, it does not discriminate against or among cluster munitions victims, or between cluster munitions victims and those who have suffered injuries or disabilities from other causes; differences in treatment are based only on medical, rehabilitative, psychological or socio-economic needs of victims.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating Montenegro’s commitment to the principals of the Convention on the cluster munitions. We strongly support every effort on the elimination of these weapons, bearing in mind the humanitarian impact of cluster bombs and continuous need for enhancing national mechanism for victim assistance.

Thank you.