

Int. Coop Assistance



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Oslo, Norway 11-14 September 2012

Mr. Fatos REKA
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General Directorate of International Organizations and Global Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Albania

Distinguished President,

Distinguished Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the election as President of this 3MSP CCM and wishing you success on your duty.

Allow me first to express my pleasure to taking the floor on behalf of the Albanian Government in this important meeting here in Oslo. It is in this beautiful city where we first took our joint commitment to make a world free from cluster munitions. We are always proud to say that the Government of Albania was part of the Oslo process, from the beginning and was among the first 10 countries to ratify the Cluster Munitions Convention.

As most of you know already, Albania has completed clearance of all its contaminated areas since 2009, through the successful implementation of a Mine Action Programme, fully supported by my Government. It is never enough to emphasize that a great share of this success we owe it to the significant contribution of the international community as well as to the continuous cooperation and valuable assistance of various agencies and organizations involved in the mine action programme in Albania. The contribution and commitment of our implementing partners in several

areas of mine action such as: humanitarian demining, victim assistance and mine risk education has been crucial in achieving our goals.

Encouraged by the Albanian Government, a great deal of support in building the local mine action capacities has been provided by UNDP through technical expertise to the coordination and monitoring capacities of the national staff and funding. In addition, several other organizations such as the International Trust Fund in Slovenia, the GICHD, DanChurchAid, ICRC, UNMAS etc. have greatly contributed to the strengthening of mine action capacities in the country in order to ensure the sustainability and the success of the mine action programme.

Certainly, none of our achievements would have been possible without the commitment of our donors' community and therefore we would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the European Union and the

Governments of United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Denmark, Canada, Czech Republic, Sweden, France, Norway, Austria and Turkey, for their steady support during all these years.

It is time to appreciate all strong commitments and supports of all parties involved in this programme for now embarking into our new challenge of clearing, all the identified hotspots contaminated with unexploded ordnances and explosive remnants of war throughout

Albania. It is our hope and belief that this support, will continue until we finally declare Albania free from the ammunition threat.

Based upon this official position, on behalf of the Albanian Government, I would like to call upon and encourage those States who have not yet done so, to join the Convention.

Last but not least, I would like to conclude by conveying my deepest appreciation to the organizers of this Third Meeting of States Parties, for the excellent arrangements and to our hosts, for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Thank you for your attention.

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