



## **Statement of the Republic of Croatia on universalization**

### **Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Geneva, 3 – 5 September 2018

Thank you Mr. President.

As this is the first time the Delegation of Croatia is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate and thank you and your team for the extensive and excellent work that you have undertaken in preparing the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are confident that you will do your best to guide this meeting to a successful outcome. Our sincere gratitude is also extended to the Director of the ISU, Ms. Sheila Mweemba and her entire team for their tireless work and efforts.

At the outset, we would like to warmly welcome Benin and Sri Lanka as the new States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

It is a well-known fact, Mr. President, that all of us here have a responsibility to continue universalization efforts – considering that a number of states have not yet accepted the Convention's comprehensive approach to save countless lives by preventing future use of these indiscriminate weapons. Even so, we have seen a remarkable progress being made since the Convention entered into force internationally with more than a hundred countries climbing on board this revolutionary humanitarian disarmament instrument.

This is why we are joining our voices with all those speaking in favor of joining the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Often when we do not have a problem we think that it does not concern us. On the contrary, it is our human duty and our common interest to help one another, to jointly work toward creating a globally safe environment for today's populations and for generations to come.

On behalf of children and adults who have been injured or killed by cluster munitions and on behalf of those who may be if they are not entirely eradicated, we are making a special appeal to countries fortunate enough not to be polluted with cluster munitions to sign and ratify this convention, an appeal that we are also extending to all those who have not yet signed or ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thank you.