



STATEMENT BY H.E. GORDAN JANDROKOVIĆ,

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference, Oslo, 3 December 2008

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen¹,

It is both a pleasure and an honor for me to be here today to add Croatia's name to the list of countries signatories to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

As a ~~strong~~ victim of cluster munitions,
The Republic of Croatia has been a strong supporter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions throughout the process of negotiations and we have looked forward to its positive outcome, that is, to today's signing and coming into force of this international instrument which prohibits the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of Cluster Munitions, because they cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

All of us present here today have worked long and hard, guided by the thought that particular interests must not stand above the well being of millions of civilians. Firm in the knowledge that for many, many people who will never be present in these rooms, the use of cluster munitions is a matter of life and death – theirs, their children's and their grandchildren's life and death, we have tried to write the best possible Convention that ^{we} could agree on. That is why Croatia has consistently supported the strong language on victim assistance, the principle of non discrimination and the necessity of national implementation. And that is also why Croatia will begin already tomorrow the parliamentary process of its ratification.

Before concluding, we wish to thank the Core group of countries, the ICRC and the various UN agencies, as well as the many non-governmental organizations for their courage, their stubbornness, their patience and their hard work to bring us this convention.

Allow me to conclude with these words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "Nothing much has ever been achieved by those who said that it cannot be done". With the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we have shown once again that much indeed can be achieved when a large enough group decides that something can and must be done.

Thank you.

¹ Prema potrebi, u slučaju dolaska predstavnika Norveške kraljevske obitelji, započeti izlaganje s „Your Royal Highness, ...“