



Statement of the Republic of Croatia on universalization

Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Geneva, 4 – 6 September 2017

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 Seventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are confident that you and your able team will do your best to guide this meeting to a successful outcome. We also wish to take this opportunity to thank you personally, Mr. President, your team and the Federal Republic of Germany for the leadership provided during your Presidency. 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.

We would like to warmly welcome Madagascar and Benin as the new States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Allow me now to briefly inform this Meeting about the “Seminar on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions” which was held in November 2016 in Croatia. It is already the eighth time that this event is being traditionally co-organized by the Government Office for Mine Action and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The overall purpose of this Seminar was to share the latest developments and challenges related to the implementation of the CCM, primarily among the key stakeholders in the South East Europe (SEE). Particular objectives of the Seminar were as follows:

- to provide the participants with an overview of the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 7-11 September 2015),

- to inform the participants about the results of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Geneva, Switzerland, 5-7 September 2016), and
- to provide a forum for discussion on the implementation of the Convention in the SEE with a focus on the progress in destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, the need for broader universalization efforts, particularly in the light of continued use of cluster munitions in armed conflicts, and finally, to emphasize the overall commitment to implement the Dubrovnik Action Plan in the next five years with a special focus on international and regional cooperation and needs for support from outside the region.

To facilitate a more dynamic discussion and to obtain more concrete results from the Seminar, participants were asked to prepare short presentations about the situation of the stocking, destruction, clearance and overall fulfilment of the requirements of the Convention in their respective countries. In total, 14 participants attended the Seminar, representing relevant ministries, agencies and organizations, from SEE countries and beyond. The Seminar's participants greatly profited from the presence of and the invaluable experience and expertise of Director Sheila Mweemba, the former/previous CCM President, Dutch Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast and experienced colleagues from German and Italian MoDs respectively, to whom all we are most grateful for their contribution. The event was additionally honored by the presence of the Ambassadors of Australia, Ireland and the Netherlands to Croatia, who also delivered opening remarks to the audience.

In the end, Mr. President, let me just remind all of us here that we 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.

Thank you.