



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON UNIVERSALIZATION

Fourth Meeting of States Parties (4MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

Lusaka, Zambia, 11 September 2013

Thank you Mr Coordinator.

Allow me to share with you a short overview on our efforts to promote the CCM in 2013.

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and Croatian Office for Mine Action together with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and Macedonian Ministry of Defense organized the *Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions* in Macedonian capital Skopje in May 2013. This was the fifth activity related to cluster munitions organized by RACVIAC and Croatian government and the first to be held outside the RACVIAC HQ in Croatia.

Objectives of the Workshop were to inform the participants about the results of the 3MSP held in September 2012 in Oslo; to provide a forum for discussion on the implementation of the CCM in SEE with special focus on progress made by SEE countries in clearance operations and the on-going survey and clearance projects in the region; finally, to provide an opportunity to closely observe the process of disposal of stockpiled cluster munitions.

Altogether 32 participants attended the Workshop, representing SEE countries, as well as other countries and international organizations. Participants welcomed representatives of Serbia and took particular note of their hope to have a positive political decision on joining the CCM.

The Workshop was divided in two parts, namely theoretical day which was comprised of presentations and discussions and practical day when participants visited the storage site where they observed disassembly of M93 mortar bombs and BKF dispensing canister containing AO 2.5RT submunitions, after which disposal process continued in training area with checking of demolition pits and observation of destruction of submunitions by open detonation.

Overall conclusion of the Workshop was that NPA's SHADOW Program conducted in Macedonia serves as an excellent example of international cooperation. Moreover, countries of the region were encouraged to follow the example of Macedonia and request international assistance if lacking funds, manpower and experience.

Finally, let me thank this year's co-organizers, MoD of Macedonia and NPA for their expert and logistical help as well as the governments of Norway and Germany for their financial and political support in arranging this Workshop.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.