



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON CLEARANCE AND RISK REDUCTION

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 use this opportunity to inform the Meeting about the clearance of cluster munitions and its remnants in Croatia.

In 2012 almost 800.000 m² has been cleared of cluster munitions and/or its remnants for which 980.000 EUR were spent. 277 pieces of KB-1 has been found and destroyed during clearance activities. That said, current cluster munitions contaminated area in Croatia totals 4.03 km², marked with 270 warning signs. These contaminated areas are located in/around 16 municipalities inside 6 counties. Furthermore, in 15 mine affected municipalities 4.6 km² were detected inside of mine suspected area where cluster munitions remnants are mixed with landmines and other UXOs. This will be cleared in accordance with Ottawa Convention provisions. Estimated number of submunitions to be cleared is around 5.000.

As a positive example of our efforts we can state that one county is now completely cleared of cluster munitions, as well as the area inside one of the Croatian national parks.

There were no casualties in 2012 from cluster munitions. However, on 10 July 2013 during the recovery works in Pađene Ammunition Depot (where an uncontrolled explosion took place in September 2011) a cluster bomb remnant (MK-1 bomblet¹) left in the high vegetation within the Depot exploded, injuring three mine clearing engineers of the Croatian Armed Forces, one of whom later died in hospital despite the best efforts undertaken by surgical staff.

Although this terrible accident serves as yet another reminder of the threat cluster munitions still pose to everyone, it also strengthens our commitment to make the safety and well-being of our people our primary goal.

Thank you Mr Coordinator.

¹ BL-755 Aerial Cluster Bomb contains 147 MK-1 bomblets.