



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON CLEARANCE AND RISK REDUCTION

Fifth Meeting of States Parties (5MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

San José, Costa Rica, 3 September 2014

Thank you Mr./Madam Coordinator.

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

In 2013 we had 11 projects of cluster munitions clearance totaling 1.388.513 m² and worth 1.2 million Euros. 195 pieces of cluster munitions has been found and destroyed during clearance activities (186 pieces of KB-1 and 9 pieces of MK-1) together with 149 pieces of UXOs. Clearance activities took place in four counties out of which 70% was in one (Zadarska) county. Current cluster munitions contaminated area in Croatia totals 2.9 km², stretching through five counties and marked with around 250 warning signs¹. Until April 2014 on 7 projects 337 pieces of unexploded cluster submunitions (331 Kb-1 and 6 Mk-1) were found and destroyed.

All of the CM found were destroyed in situ without transfer beyond individual project boundary lines. Furthermore, some CM were cleared by the Ministry of Interior outside the mine suspected area; for example, at Children's Hospital in the center of Zagreb, where a KB-1 was found as a result of rocket attacks on Zagreb in 1995.

It is noteworthy to state that two counties (Dubrovnik-Neretva and Sisak-Moslavina) were cleared, but new contaminations in another (Karlovac) county were found. For that reason, despite the significant efforts, there was not much change in the overall quantities and contamination.

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) 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.

Thank you Mr./Madam Coordinator.

¹ Situation as of 29 August 2014.