



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON UNIVERSALIZATION

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 share with you a short overview on our efforts to promote the CCM in 2014.

The Office for Mine Action along with RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in Croatia, conducted separate workshops on CMs and APLMs in the last few years. This year, however, we decided to merge these two events in the framework of a much larger event, which was the 11th International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition „Mine Action 2014“.

The purpose of that Symposium was to provide a forum for discussions on security issues in the context of the humanitarian disarmament treaties while focusing on available technologies, both the new and the upcoming ones. It was a combination of lectures and presentations, consisting of two blocks, dealing with the Ottawa Convention and the CCM respectively, followed by Q&A and a short discussion. The Symposium was designed with a goal to share expertise, experience and information. It also provided a favorable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.

The overall rating of the Symposium was very high, and the participants appreciated the idea of merging two activities into one, having an opportunity to listen to all the lectures, to take part in the field demonstration and take a closer look at the demining machines and other equipment.

In the end Mr./Madam Coordinator, let me just remind all of us here that we have 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. Even so, we have seen a remarkable progress being made since the Convention entered into force internationally with more than a hundred countries climbing on board the Convention. This clearly shows that the majority of world’s nations recognize true nature and horrific effects of these weapons, particularly the harm they cause to civilians both during and long after a conflict ends. Unfortunately, despite worldwide efforts to curb the use of cluster munitions, in recent years we have witnessed a number of incidents that included the usage of those weapons. However, these incidents were met with international criticism, firmly demonstrating that even countries that are still outside the Convention are not exempt from condemnation if they use these weapons. We are therefore echoing voices of those State Parties and international organizations that are dismayed by the ongoing use of cluster munitions in Syria and we are sharing our deep disturbance by recent reports of the use of these weapons in South Sudan and Ukraine.

Thank you Mr./Madam Coordinator