



**Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on
Cluster Munitions (CCM)**
Geneva, 5 – 7 September 2016

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Thank you Mr./Ms. Coordinator.

The International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition Mine Action 2016, the annual international gathering of mine action experts, was held from 26th to 29th April 2016 in Biograd. The Symposium drew attendance of 160 participants from 32 countries. The Symposium provided an overview of the latest scientific and practical achievements and offered sustainable solutions in dealing with mines, cluster munitions and ERW in general and participants used this opportunity to share their experiences, both technological and managerial.

Within five panels during plenary sessions experts discussed the following topics: explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination; risks and safety in demining; new and emerging technologies; cooperation and transfer of knowledge and experience; mine risk education (MRE) activities and mine victims' assistance.

For the first time we have introduced the role of the partner country of the Symposium and this year it was Jordan, whose delegation was led by HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, Chairman of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) and Special Envoy of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Delegates from Jordan, namely the Director of the National Center for Demining and Rehabilitation Mr. Mohammad Breikat, held presentations on ERW clearance in the Jordan Valley and on the *train-the-trainer* MRE course, conducted together with the Croatian Center for Testing, Development and Training (CTDT), for Syrian refugees in Jordan; a project financed by the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.¹

¹ This particular project will be continued in the future, with new advanced and basic MRE training courses.

As a practical part of the Symposium, participants attended a demonstration of the dog training school, information management device for application in technical survey, the method of training honey bees to detect explosives as well as presentations of demining machines, metal detectors, robots, drones and a bucket-sifter. Participants also greatly valued presentation by the CROMAC experts of a technical survey conducted on a real demining worksite, as well as the demonstration of the underwater survey and demining.

Finally, Croatian mine action representatives offered to the high-level military delegation of Colombia to be the partner-country of the 14th Symposium in 2017. Also, the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Mine Action between CROMAC and Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) of Armenia was signed.

Thank you.