



## **Statement of the Republic of Croatia on compliance issues**

### **Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

Geneva, 3 – 5 September 2018

Thank you Mr. President.

The experience with the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as with other treaties banning specific types of weapons, is that compliance truly makes a difference. Only through full compliance with the provisions of the Convention we can achieve its humanitarian objectives. It has been said that this Convention is still in its early years, but that certainly does not mean that we should lose focus from completing obligations as soon as possible, complying with them in a swift and determined manner. During this week, States Parties have demonstrated a number of positive examples of how they are moving forward at a good pace. It is our imperative to maintain this focus and accelerate progress on all provisions of the Convention.

Mr. President,

As a country that has a first-hand (and rather recent) experience of the devastating humanitarian consequences caused by the use of cluster munitions, Croatia has always been a strong proponent of the need to universally ban these inhumane and outdated weapons. In line with this, we firmly condemn all use of cluster munitions, anywhere and by any actor.

It is for this reason that we are deeply dismayed by the information from the recently published *Cluster Munition Monitor 2018* that cluster munitions have continued to be used throughout 2017 in conflicts in Syria and Yemen by Syrian Government forces (with support of their allies) and by Saudi Arabia-led coalition respectively. While condemning these acts of inhumanity, we are concerned and bewildered that while we struggle as a community to create the necessary conditions and find funds to rehabilitate and reintegrate cluster munitions survivors, new conditions are being created to maim people, that is, to create new victims. We urge most strongly those states and actors in violation to desist and ensure that cluster munitions are never used again.

Finally, we would again like to thank the civil society – *Cluster Munition Coalition*, *Human Rights Watch* and *Cluster Munition Monitor* - for serving as our common conscience and for providing relevant facts. Thank you.