



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON RETENTION

CCM Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, April 16 – 19 2012

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1 of the CCM, the retention or acquisition of a limited number of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for development and training purposes, clearance and destruction techniques including the development of counter-measures are permitted. However, Croatia agrees with the concerns raised by CMC that *it is not clear how the “minimum number absolutely necessary” will be interpreted*. This makes it crucial that states comply fully with the detailed reporting requirement on cluster munitions retained for development and training. States Parties that intend to retain cluster munitions and submunitions should provide information on how they have used them in the past for training, testing and counter-measures so that their future requirement is clear.

As a good example of the retention policy, Croatia has decided to keep only a minimum of 14 pieces (as stated in Form C of the Annual Report). Even with those limited numbers, all retained cluster munitions will be disassembled and all explosive parts removed from the casings. This procedure will ensure the safe-keeping and readiness for the museum static displays presentation. Croatia would like to take this opportunity to encourage all State Parties to consider this technique of retention. If they must keep a number of live or armed cluster munitions for the training and development purposes, we urge the State Parties to keep that number in the hundreds or thousands or less, but not tens of thousands — as commonly understood under the Mine Ban Treaty.

To conclude, retention of live cluster munitions or submunitions should eventually be the exception and not the rule.