



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND RETENTION

Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
Geneva, 7 - 9 April 2014

Thank you Mr Coordinator.

Since we already had the opportunity to elaborate in detail on our efforts regarding the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions during last year's meetings, allow me just a short overview of new developments in this regard.

Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) still have approx. 100 tons of CM in their possession which are placed in 3 locations that comply with all safety regulations. Due to the ongoing and demanding clearance of the former military ammunition depot in Pađene where a huge, un-controlled explosion took place in 2011, the process of destroying stockpiled CM has been delayed.

However, completion of clearance in Pađene is scheduled for the end of July 2014 and since SOPs for the CM destruction are already being prepared, we believe that by the end of September 2014 we could start the procedure of destruction which is going to be conducted with own capacities and resources of CAF.

In conclusion, let me say that we hope to finish the destruction process within one year from the beginning, thus completing our obligations under the CCM fairly ahead of the set deadline.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.