Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Croatia

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Madame President,

In the period under review a new Act on Mine Action was drafted by an interagency Working Group, established by the Ministry of the Interior, and was submitted to the Croatian Parliament for approval in March this year. The new Act aims to regulate not only humanitarian demining, but to comprise all the components including the activities, which have not been so far sufficiently regulated by the current Act. This is a comprehensive document that incorporates all explosive remnants of war - cluster munitions, mines and unexploded ordnance.

The draft Act emphasises the importance of assistance to victims and their socio-economic rehabilitation and integration, as well as mine risk education. The novelty is the obligation of running a data base on victims and their family members with the aim of providing systematic assistance adapted to age and gender. This kind of help includes medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, which will endeavour to secure their social and economic inclusion.

One of the fundamental bases is coordination with the latest achievements in International Mine Action Standards, specifically those related to technical surveying and the possibility of verifying non-contamination of mine suspected areas.

In conclusion, let me highlight that the Act stipulates misdemeanour sanctions for failure in treatment of cluster munitions.