

**Statement by the
Delegation of the Republic of Croatia**

STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND RETENTION

Madame President,

Croatia is pleased to report the continuation of the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions.

In April and May this year 639 cluster bombs with 24,200 sub-munitions were destroyed through industrial demilitarization techniques. Financing for this destruction of this portion of cluster munitions destruction was secured through donation from ITF (*International Trust Fund*) Enhancing Human Security for the destruction of excess stockpiles of non-perspective weapons (*also small arms and light weapons, ammunition, and man-portable air-defence systems*).

Following an uncontrolled explosion that took place in the former military ammunition depot Pađenein 2011, where some 150 pieces of cluster munitions were destroyed, a comprehensive clearance of the site was organised. We are happy to report that the clearance was successfully completed in May this year.

The Croatian Armed Forces possess approximately 100 tons of cluster munitions. All were declared non-perspective for future use and are scheduled for the destruction. Standard Operating Procedures were developed for destruction on a large scale. The plan is to minimise the contamination by maximizing the re-use, recycling and reprocessing of materials, where possible. Stockpile destruction will combine disassembly and destruction by open burning and open detonation techniques (*military capacity*) and disposal and destruction by industrial demilitarization (*foreign donation*). The destruction process continues with the aim of completion before the set deadline.

Finally, let me reiterate our readiness to continue to report on any new developments in stockpile destruction in a transparent and open manner.