



## **Statement of the Republic of Croatia on update on the plans, priorities and progress towards clearance and risk reduction education**

(Item 22)

Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions Geneva,

2 – 4 September 2019

Thank you Mr. President.

I would like to refer to the annual report from 2018, that was submitted in May of this year and inform you of the progress made.

Croatia has completed the destruction programme of cluster munitions stockpiles on 20 July 2018.

The Croatian Armed Forces have retained a total of 5 bombs and 1 rocket for training and educational purposes. All cluster bombs and rocket are disassembled and disarmed, with all explosive components removed. As for the overall mine clearance efforts, we hope to meet the set deadline in August 2020. The area of 266 000 square meters is still contaminated. This refers to the following counties, contaminated with cluster munition type KB-1:

Lika-Senj County 0.19 square km

Zadar County 0.002 square km

Šibenik Knin County 0.019. square km

Sisak Moslavina County 0.045 square km

The Ministry of the Interior is continuing its "Less arms, fewer tragedies" program in partnership with UNDP. Police department is determined to continue these programs and activities in the future.

I would also like to mention a very special educational project of the civilian sector and Ministry of Croatian Veterans in which the educators are disabled veterans. This is a two-part project. The first phase is trainer training of disabled veterans and their mentors and training for conducting the education for civilians and target groups.

The second stage involves training of war veterans and members of special police forces to carry out training independently, which focuses on mine threats.