



Statement of the Republic of Croatia on international cooperation and assistance

(Item 34)

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

2 – 4 September 2019

Thank you Mr. President.

The 16th International Symposium “Mine Action 2019”, the annual international gathering of mine action experts, was held in Slano near Dubrovnik in April this year, under the high patronage of the Government of Croatia. Hungary was our partner state in organizing this event.

There were 170 participants at the symposium, from 31 countries from Europe, Asia, North and South America, all sharing their mine action experiences. The symposium featured presentations on the topics of “Challenges of mine action in migrant crisis”, forest demining, security of infrastructure, financing of mine action, modern demining technologies and experiences and methods in dealing with improvised explosives. An important part of the Symposium was the demonstration of removal of underwater unexploded ordnance and working with mine detection dogs. This symposium is quite unique as it gathers representatives from the research community, manufacturers, operatives and decision makers. It allows us to keep in touch with the latest developments and technologies. In the last 16 years, more than 2500 participants from 67 countries have taken part in the symposium.

The bilateral meetings were held with the representatives of Columbia, Syria and Norway focusing on mine action and related activities. On the margins of the symposium, a number of other bilateral meetings were held all with the same goal of enhancing partnerships at all levels. One of those meetings was also SEEMAC meeting. In June 2019 the bilateral meeting was held with the Ambassador of Syria in the embassy in Vienna. One of the topics of the meeting was planning future activities in demining. One of the examples of good cooperation was with Ukraine in the area of legislation.

I would like to stress that Croatia is committed to sharing experience and know-how in the international environment.