



THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Agenda item 8.d

Victim assistance

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Dear Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues,

Even though the two important commitments have been completed successfully, the Republic of Croatia continues with special commitment in comprehensive activities to help the victims and their families. Victim assistance is provided and will be continued through defined and established key forms of assistance in the implementation of which the state and civil sector of the Republic of Croatia participate through a number of organizations and individual initiatives.

Allow me to inform you on two recent and specific activities that are taking place in the Republic of Croatia in the segment of victim assistance.

Within the "Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Program", the project "Demining and socio-economic reintegration" was continued in the soft component of socio-economic integration of mine victims. During this year, a field survey of victims and their family members was organized and conducted, with a very good response rate of 82.6% of available households. The field survey collected data on social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., which will serve in further activities concerning in example the development of specific programs for psychosocial empowerment and launching initiatives to improve the living conditions of victims and their families. The collected data will be integrated in a single database on the explosive remnants of war victims. Also, throughout the project, it is planned to create a brochure that will contain the rights and opportunities available to victims in the Republic of Croatia and how to exercise them.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that by the end of this year we plan to pass a Law on civilian victims of the Homeland War, that will enable application for a status of war disabled civilians on the basis of disabilities caused by a disease linked to the Homeland war, among other things, due to disabilities caused by explosions of mines left over after the end of war operations. This law will provide the same legal security to civilian victims as already provided to Croatian War Veterans, among others to landmine survivors and families of persons killed by landmines. Personal disability allowance, allowance for care and assistance of another person, orthopaedic allowance, special allowance, professional rehabilitation and family disability allowance are among the rights established by the stated Law. We believe that the Law will greatly improve socioeconomic status of mine victims in the Republic of Croatia.

In conclusion, the Republic of Croatia supports the guidelines of the Lausanne Action Plan and will continue to promote convention norms and their full implementation, with special contribution and care for victims.

Thank you