



**Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on
Cluster Munitions (CCM)
Geneva, 5 – 7 September 2016**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON UNIVERSALIZATION**

Thank you Mr./Ms. Coordinator./Thank you Mr. President.

As this is the first time the Delegation of Croatia is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate and thank you and your team for the extensive and excellent work that you have undertaken in preparing the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are confident that you and your able team will do your best to guide this meeting to a successful outcome. We also wish to take this opportunity to thank you personally, Mr. President, your team and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the leadership provided during your Presidency. Our sincere gratitude is also extended to the Director of the ISU, Ms. Sheila Mweemba and her team for their tireless work and efforts.

Allow me to use this opportunity to inform that the Seminar on Cluster Munitions will be organized in Croatia, in November this year. It is already the eighth time that this event is being traditionally co-organized by the Government Office for Mine Action and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The overall purpose of this Seminar is to share the latest developments and challenges related to the implementation of the CCM, primarily among the regional stakeholders. Particular objectives of this year's Seminar are the following:

- to provide the participants with an overview of the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 7-11 September 2015),
- to inform the participants about the results of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (6MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Geneva, Switzerland, 5-7 September 2016), and
- to provide a forum for discussion on the implementation of the Convention in the SouthEastern Europe (SEE) with a focus on the progress in destruction of

stockpiled cluster munitions, the need for broader universalization efforts, particularly in the light of continued use of cluster munitions in armed conflicts, and finally, to emphasize the overall commitment to implement the Dubrovnik Action Plan in the next five years with a special focus on international and regional cooperation and needs for support from outside the region.

To facilitate a more dynamic discussion and to obtain more concrete results from the Seminar, participants coming from States Parties to the Convention are asked to prepare short presentations about the situation of the stocking, destruction, clearance and overall fulfilment of the requirements of the Convention in their respective countries. On the other hand, participants from the non-signatory states are encouraged to share their views on the possibility of acceding to the Convention and, if willing, to present their positions regarding the Convention and its obligations in general.

We are expecting between 25 and 30 participants, representing relevant ministries, agencies and organizations, from different countries in SEE.

Finally, I am delighted to say that the Seminar will be additionally improved by the valuable experience and expertise of the ISU CCM, the current CCM Presidency and experienced colleagues from German and Italian MoDs respectively, to all of whom I am most grateful for their contribution.

In the end, Mr./Ms. Coordinator/Mr. President, let me just remind all of us here that we have a responsibility to continue universalization efforts – considering that a number of states have not yet accepted the Convention's comprehensive approach to save countless lives by preventing future use of these indiscriminate weapons.

Thank you.