



Statement of the Republic of Croatia on storage and stockpile destruction

Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Geneva, 4 – 6 September 2017

Thank you Mr. President.

The Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) have currently less than 120 tons of cluster munitions in their possession, which are stored at two locations in close proximity to the destruction site, and they are stored in accordance to the type of munitions (air bombs, MRLS rockets and mortar grenades).

Since the conditions for the destruction of the stockpiled ammunitions in the capacities of the CAF were met (following a period in which certain technical obstacles were hindering the destruction process), the Chief of General Staff of the CAF issued a Command in December 2016 to destroy the remaining ammunition stockpiles. In accordance with this Command, preparations were made and the destruction process restarted in March 2017. Within the aforementioned preparations, the Plan and the belonging Studies for the destruction were produced, additional training of the personnel was carried out and the Implementation Command to the Engineering unit that is supposed to carry out the destruction was issued.

Based on the Plan for the Destruction of Stockpiled Cluster Munitions, the entire stocks of clusters munitions will be first dismantled, after which the extracted cluster submunitions (bomblets) and other explosive parts obtained through the process of dismantling will be destroyed by open detonation and open burning.

Accordingly, in the period from 1 March 2017 until 25 August 2017, 3.569 mortar mines 120 mm M93, 4 air bombs BL-755, 3 air bombs RBK-250-275 and 2 air bombs RBK-250 PTAB-2.5M were dismantled and belonging cluster submunitions (KB-1 and MK-1 bomblets) were packed and prepared for destruction by open detonation.

A more detailed projection of activities cannot be made since we are talking about very dangerous process which is not standardized per unit of time or ordnance, and where the only applicable criteria is that of the safety of people, property and environment. However, having in mind recent progress and strong determination of Croatia to timely fulfill its obligations, thus further strengthening the international norm against the cluster munitions, we are optimistic that the destruction process conducted entirely by the CAF capacities will be completed by the end of this year.

Thank you Mr. President.