



## **STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND RETENTION**

### **CCM INTERSESSIONAL MEETING 2013**

Geneva, 17 April 2013

Thank you Mr Coordinator.

Since we already had the opportunity to elaborate in detail on our efforts regarding the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions at this week's Technical Workshops, I would like to share with you in brief Croatia's activities regarding stockpiled cluster munitions.

The Croatian Ministry of Defence started working with Norwegian People's Aid in 2010 on the implementation of the SHADOW Programme. This step-by-step programme in 2011 scheduled a Research & Development phase which was conducted in Croatia during the summer of 2011. The objective of this exercise was to disassemble at least one of each type of cluster munitions as well as their respective sub munitions. Besides establishing the exact cluster munitions internal structure and conducting disassembly training experience for Croatian personnel, the main goal of the activity was to determine possible destruction options for the implementation of the stockpile destruction' final phase.

With the accomplishment of all its goals and objectives determined at the outset, the Croatian MoD considers the Research & Development phase of the NPA Shadow Programme truly a success. Viable destruction options were identified. This was also a great learning experience for the Croatian personnel as preparation for the final stages of the destruction programme – implementation phase. Nevertheless, this implementation phase was never realized due to an accidental fire which broke out in September 2011 near Padene military storage complex. Fire triggered several explosions at the storage complex and as a result part of the Croatian cluster munitions stocks was also destroyed.

At present, the Croatian Armed Forces are left with approximately 110 tons of CM stockpiles which are placed in 2 locations (Golubić and Pleso) that comply with all safety regulations. One of the tasks which started in 2013 is development of SOPs (for the final stage of CM disassembly and destruction) by techniques of open burning and open detonation and industrial demilitarization. Development of SOPs should be finished during 2014.

Regardless of the NPA's Shadow Programme and our current quest for resources, the Croatian MoD and GS have made alternative plan to conclude the destruction process with their own resources combining OB/OD in the CAF facility and industrial demilitarization techniques.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.