



**Statement of the Republic of Croatia  
on clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and risk  
reduction education**

**Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on  
Cluster Munitions**

Geneva, 4 – 6 September 2017

Thank you Mr. President.

Cluster munitions remnants contamination in the Republic of Croatia currently stands at 1.74 km<sup>2</sup> with contaminated area stretching through three counties (Lika-Senj, Zadar and Šibenik-Knin). The mentioned area is clearly and visibly marked with 125 warning signs. Of this area, 25.7% is declared as agricultural land, 72.1% as forest area and 2.2% as other (swamp, marshland, cliffs, karst etc.). Estimated number of cluster munitions submunitions (and other UXOs) in this area is 3.560 pieces.

Cluster munitions remnants' clearance operations in 2016 resulted in the reduction of the contaminated area by 1.19 km<sup>2</sup>, while 0.05 km<sup>2</sup> have been included as being cluster munitions-contaminated. We are particularly pleased to report that, in comparison with 2015, in 2016 we have cleaned and excluded one more county - Split-Dalmatia. Here, it is also important to emphasize that the cluster munitions clearance is focused specifically on Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA), not on Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA). Thus, in 2016 all areas that were cleared resulted in findings of cluster munitions remnants, ie. 214 KB-1 submunitions in total, which were destroyed on site. In addition to this, during 2016, Police Department collected and destroyed 37 submunitions in total (KB-1 and MK-1).

From 1992 until 2006 we have recorded 39 cluster munitions-related incidents resulting in 60 casualties that occurred after the bombing from the unexploded submunitions on the ground and during the bombing raids (7 – light injuries; 28 – severe injuries; 15 – killed; 10 – unknown). The fact that we didn't record cluster munitions-related incidents for more than ten years, besides clearance of contaminated areas, is largely due to the systematic and continuous/wide spread mine risk education activities annually conducted by a variety of GO (CROMAC; MoI; regional and municipal authorities) and NGO (Croatian Red

Cross; Association “Croatia Helps”; Croatian Hunting Federation; Disability Volleyball Club “Zagreb” etc.) stakeholders. Thus, in 2016 more than 30.000 persons in Croatia were educated and informed about the dangers of mines, UXO and ERW.

Finally, with regards to Croatia’s Article 4 obligations, we can now inform this distinguished Meeting that the process of cluster munitions remnants (technical) survey and clearance will be completed in 2018, fairly ahead of our deadline set for 1 August 2020.

Thank you.