

*‘Enhancing the Implementation of Articles 3 & 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in South East Europe: the Country Coalition Concept’*

CSE-A8-W-17

*Rakitje, 12 June 2017*

**Welcome Address by  
Ambassador Haydar Berk  
Director of RACVIAC**

*Your Excellency,*

*Dear Participants,*

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation to the Workshop on ‘Enhancing Implementation of Articles 3 & 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in South East Europe: the Country Coalition Concept’.

At the very beginning I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to H.E. Biontino as the Head of the Permanent Representation of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament in his capacity as the President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), for organizing this very important activity together with RACVIAC.

Also, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you, our honourable guest speakers and participants, for showing your interest and taking part in this event.

Dear participants, the purpose of this Workshop is to discuss future developments impacting the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), by focusing on the concept of establishing “country coalitions” as a coordinated approach and a means to enhance international cooperation and ownership by all countries which are State Parties to the CCM and thus support the implementation of specific aspects of the Convention in South East Europe.

Also, this will serve as a forum for sharing and exchanging experience, knowledge and ideas on various aspects of the Articles 3 & 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I really wish that discussions during this Workshop would not just remain at a conceptual level, that this forum will be able to identify our achievements and

future plans in a very concrete way, paying particular attention to the SEE region in particular.

As you know, the Convention on Cluster Munitions has been a remarkable success in the short time that it has been in force. The destroying of tens of millions of cluster munitions, clearance of hundreds square meters of land, and providing of the assistance services to the cluster munition victims is clear evidence that the Convention is having a definitive impact.

I would like to stress that RACVIAC is very proud to be able to provide the platform for your constructive dialogue and extending the cooperation by building bridges of trust. As we repeatedly state, regional approach to security issues is the crucial prerequisite for peace and stability in the region and beyond. It is RACVIAC viewpoint that lasting security can only be achieved through cooperation and partnership between all actors, since, undeniably, we cannot cope with all security challenges alone.

In that regard, I believe that this Workshop will serve as an excellent tool for increasing cooperation, openness and transparency amongst our countries.

Finally, during this activity, there will be a broad range of topics concerning the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is our belief that this Convention is very important for our region and beyond, and that is why I would like to use this opportunity to encourage those countries that have not signed the Convention yet to do so.

Dear lecturers and participants, I would like to once again thank you all for coming to RACVIAC.

I wish you a warm welcome and successful work in a professional and friendly atmosphere.