



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 19 – 20 May 2016**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

Thank you Mr./Ms. President/Coordinator.

On behalf of the delegation of Croatia, I would like to express our pleasure at participating in the work of this year's Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention while already looking forward to the 15th MSP in December in Santiago. I can assure you of my delegation's full support in your work in the following two days and furthermore commend you on your diligent work so far.

In 2015, victim assistance was carried out in accordance with legal regulations by government bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with coordinating role of the Government Office for Mine Action.

NGO "Mine Aid" continued supporting persons affected by mines and members of their families through psychosocial and economic projects.

In organization of the Sitting Volleyball Club "Zagreb" and in cooperation with the Sitting Volleyball Club "Šibenik", Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC), "Mine Aid" and the Foundation "Croatia without Mines" on 27 June 2015 in the town square Poljana in Drniš municipality, the campaign "Together for Croatia Without Mines" was presented. At the beginning of the program there was a performance called "Mine-Free World - Security - Happiness" during which the process of mine clearance was presented. In the second part of the program, the players of the volleyball clubs from Zagreb, Šibenik, Knin and Zadar showed a sitting volleyball game - a sport that can be successfully practiced by people injured by mines.

Also, Centre M.A.R.E. – Model of Active Rehabilitation and Education, provided social rehabilitation during the summer of 2015 for persons affected by mines.

Government and non-government organizations marked April - Month of Protection against Mines in Zagreb (Mine Aid, IOK Zagreb, Foundation "Croatia without Mines",

CROMAC, the Government Office for Mine Action). Furthermore, during the program, educational materials on mine threat that still exists in the Republic of Croatia, were distributed to the visitors.

With the support of ICBL and CMC, during September 2015, NGOs conducted the campaign "Safety and happiness without mines is bigger", which aimed to raise the awareness of the general public, governmental and non-governmental sector on the issue of mines and UXO through media outreach and the celebration of August 1st - the fifth anniversary of entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

During 2015 Foundation "Croatia without Mines" was a part of the project The Night of Inclusion - Turning EXclusive societies into INclusive ones, an event that was held during the First Review Conference to the CCM in Dubrovnik.

"Documenta - Centre for Dealing with the Past" in cooperation with the Europe House Vukovar organized the training "Developing local networking and exchange of best practice of provider of psychosocial support to victims of torture and civilian victims of war" in Vukovar (15-16 June 2015.). The second training "Developing local networking and exchange of best practice of provider of psychosocial support of victims of torture and civilian victims of war" was held at the Center M.A.R.E. in Rovinj (11 -13 September 2015).

During the year 2015, "Documenta" continued to provide legal advice and to link users with providers of psychosocial assistance.

CROMAC continued to collect data on mine victims and their needs during the process of non-technical survey in continuation of the 2014 project conducted by the Government Office for Mine Action with a goal of establishing Unified Database of Mine and UXO Victims in Croatia.

Thank you.