



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

**INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON COOPERATIVE COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Thank you Mr./Ms. President/Coordinator.

Croatia is convinced that the credibility of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is largely due to how we, as the States Parties, collectively deal with the question of various issues of compliance with the core legal obligations of the Convention.

There is no doubt that the Convention has been a huge success addressing the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines in its first years. But what seems like an emerging pattern of confirmed non-compliance situations, is a direct threat to the credibility of this Convention.

It is for this reason that we are deeply disturbed by the information from the Landmine Monitor Report 2015 that anti-personnel landmines have been used from October 2014 through October 2015, by the government forces of Myanmar, North Korea, and Syria—all states not party to the APMBC. The same source states that non-state armed groups used antipersonnel mines or victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) acting as antipersonnel mines in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Yemen, which is a significant increase. The last time the Monitor reported 10 or more countries in which non-state armed groups used antipersonnel mines or victim-activated improvised explosive devices was in the year 2006.

We strongly condemn these actions, primarily because of the humanitarian harm that landmines cause. Thus, the use of antipersonnel mines is therefore never acceptable under any circumstances. If use has indeed occurred, the responsible ones must be held accountable according to applicable national legislation.

Even though there was no confirmed new use of antipersonnel landmines by State Parties during the reporting period, Croatia would like to remind everyone that the

verification system of the Convention foresees that states themselves respond to allegations of use and demonstrate transparency and cooperation. The way States Parties handle these most serious of possible breaches of the Convention will be a clear indicator of their commitment to preserving the Convention's strength and integrity.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts by the civil society, ICBL/HRW in particular, in providing relevant facts and continuously putting these issues on our agenda.

Thank you.