



Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties  
2-5 DECEMBER 2013 • GENEVA

## STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON MINE CLEARANCE

13MSP to APMBC, Geneva, 2 – 5 December 2013

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of Croatia I would like to express our pleasure at participating in the work of the 13<sup>th</sup> MSP to the APMBC. I can assure you of my delegation's full support in your endeavor as the President of this Meeting and commend you on your diligent work so far.

Since our last report the mine suspected area has been significantly reduced. Since the beginning of the year Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) was reduced by 28 km<sup>2</sup> with the mine clearance activities, while with non-technical survey activities reduced an additional 25 km<sup>2</sup>. Current SHA is 637 km<sup>2</sup>. During demining operations 1.584 anti-personnel mines, 774 anti-tank mines and 12.702 unexploded ordinances were found and destroyed. These results were achieved with 35 demining companies, 617 deminers, 53 demining machines and 20 mine detection dogs.

The entire Suspected Hazardous Area is marked with 12.931 warning sign.

By November 15 of this year, a total of some 32 million € were spent for mine clearance activities. The major funding source for mine action in Croatia is the State Budget (some 23 million €), followed by public and state owned companies and investors, the biggest being the state company Croatian Forests, with some 5 million €, and foreign governments, organizations and individual donors (some 4 million €).

As the EU Member, Croatia is applying for funds for demining from a variety of EU funds. Only this year from EU sources we secured 3.3 million €. In the next few months it is expected that we will sign two grant contracts with EU for an additional 4.5 million €.

One of projects that we would like to emphasize is the joint project with Hungary for demining of our common border that was completed in October 2013. A total of 2.6 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous area was cleared on the both sides of Hungarian-Croatian border and 152 peaces of mines and UXOs were found and destroyed. With this project being completed Hungary no longer has a problem with mines on her territory, while Croatia cleared the border zone at least 50 meters in depth from the border line. Project was financed from EU IPA Cross-border cooperation Program.

Croatia will continue to apply for the EU funds with projects for integrated development and rehabilitation of the war affected areas, especially these where the mine clearance is precondition for the future development projects.

From 1998, when Government of Croatia established the Croatian Mine Action Center, 565 million € were invested in mine clearance activities. The largest source of funding has been and continues to be the State Budget providing some 58% of total funds spent. The second largest sources of funding are private and public investors with 21% of total funds, and donors with 15% of funding.

In the reporting period there was 1 mine incident with 1 civilian victim (light injury) in marked SHA.

Finally, I would like to conclude this brief intervention with the strong commitment of the Republic of Croatia to solve mine problem in scheduled timeframe.

Thank you.