



Croatia Progress Report for the 2009-2010 period

-Overview-

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the 10th meeting of States Parties. Equally, I would like to thank all of your team members and the ISU for the excellent work in the preparations and the conduct of this meeting.

Our warmest regards and special thanks to the Ambassador of Norway, Madam Susan Eckey for her tireless efforts and contribution made over the past few years.

Looking at the period from Cartagena Summit in 2009, we are happy to report that to date all goals set in the National Mine Action Strategy and the Humanitarian Demining Plan for the period 2009 to 2011 were accomplished.

Plan for the year 2009 is accomplished completely. Total of 38 km² was demined and additional 25 km² reduced by non-technical survey activities conducted by Croatian Mine Action Centre, meaning that the total Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) was reduced by 63 km². During demining operations, companies have found and destroyed total of 8.671 antipersonnel and antitank mines and 1.186 peaces of UXO. In total 44.0 mil. EUR was spent for demining operations in 2009.

Although the funding for 2010 is less than previous year due to the economic crises, in past 11 months the plan is almost completely accomplished. An area of 29 km² was demined and a total of 3.440 antipersonnel and antitank mines and 2.810 pieces of UXO were found and destroyed. In the same period, by a non-technical survey CROMAC reduced additional 37 km². Number of mine affected municipalities was reduced from 111 to 100. Total amount of funds spent in 11 months of this year for demining activities is 36 mil. EUR. The size of SHA on the November 29, 2010 is 822 km² with 16.342 warning signs.

Like in previous years, the largest source of funding is the State Budget with 71% of total funds for this year. Second source of finding are public and private investors with 21%. Donor funds were 7% and the World Bank Loan 1% of total funds for this year.

In 2010 there were intensive educational activities. CROMAC and local theatre "Daska" organised 52 educational plays "No, no mines" and 62 lectures in elementary schools in 57 cities and municipalities. More than 14.000 kids in primary schools and their teachers were educated. This program was financed by the Government of United



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States and will continue next year. Together with this program CROMAC was partner to Police Departments in UNDP program "Less arms, less tragedies" with lectures and educational material. This year the main celebration of International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action - April 4 was held in Lipik with presentations, lectures and program for the children in elementary school.

The brochure "Possibilities and Rights" intended for persons with disability – mine victims was published and promoted in April 2010, jointly with the NGO Mine Aid. The importance of this brochure is that it contains all relevant practical information in one place, which provides thematic and content-related assistance to a large number of users as well as institutions providing for mine victims, and is distributed freely.

In the period from the Cartagena Review Conference until today there were 5 mine incidents registered, involving 7 persons out of which 3 were killed.

On yearly basis, Croatia is organizing an International Symposium on Developing New Methods and Technologies in Humanitarian Demining, held in the coastal city of Sibenik. I am also delighted to see many familiar faces in this room who have participated in a recent RACVIAC seminar entitled "Ottawa Convention – Political and Humanitarian Aspects" held in a small town of Rakitje, on the outskirts of Zagreb.

Thank you all for your kind attention.