



**15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**  
Santiago, 28<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

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

Thank you Mr./Ms. Coordinator.

My delegation has decided to take the floor because we are of the opinion that compliance with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and in particular compliance with the most important prohibition of the treaty – the prohibition of use - should be of utmost importance to each and every State Party. It is therefore equally important how each individual State Party responds to questions regarding their own compliance, and then again, how we as States Parties, collectively deal with the question of various issues of compliance with the core legal obligations of the Convention.

The APMBC has already established a powerful norm – the use of anti-personnel mines is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. The use of these inhumane weapons has extremely harmful humanitarian effects and any allegations or reports of non-compliance, either by a state or a non-state actor, should be swiftly addressed, supported by necessary clarifications based on thorough investigations and ultimately, followed by appropriate legal steps.

It is for this reason that we are deeply alarmed by the information from the new “Landmine Monitor 2016” that anti-personnel landmines have been recently used by government forces in the three states non-parties to the Convention - Myanmar, North Korea and Syria. We strongly condemn these actions, a condemnation that extends to the reported use of anti-personnel mines by the armed non-state actors in 10 countries. Even more worrying fact is that the sharp increase in a number of mine victims in 2015, the highest in 10 years, is also due to the use of victim-activated improvised explosive devices (that mostly act as anti-personnel mines) or improvised mines, which are increasingly becoming a weapon of choice for numerous non-state armed groups and terrorist organizations.

Mr./Ms. Coordinator,

There is no doubt that this Convention has been a huge success addressing the human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. But what seems like an emerging pattern of confirmed and possible non-compliance situations may seem as a serious threat to the very credibility of the Convention. However, we still find it encouraging that there is a widespread condemnation of (this recent) use of anti-personnel landmines, demonstrating that the international norm established by the APMBC is an effective part of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to again commend the efforts by the civil society, *International Campaign to Ban Landmines* (ICBL), *Human Rights Watch* (HRW) and *Mine Monitor* in particular, in providing relevant facts and continuously putting these issues on our agenda.

Thank you.