



17th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 26 – 30 November 2018

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON COOPERATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Thank you Madam President.

We wish to thank the Committee on the Cooperative Compliance for its work and efforts.

Madam President,

We strongly believe that this Convention has proved to be strong enough to address serious compliance issues head on, and not to look the other way or sweep them under the carpet because non-compliance directly corresponds to a weakened humanitarian impact of the treaty; which is, unfortunately, sometimes the case with some other international instruments.

It is exactly for this reason that we are alarmed and saddened by the information from the new *Landmine Monitor 2018* (LMM 2018) on the continued use of landmines by the government forces of Myanmar (state not party to the APMBC) and by the non-state armed actors (NSAAs) in at least 8 countries. Even more worrying news is the continuation of the negative trend reflected in very high numbers of mine casualties for the third year in a row while utterly devastating fact is that child casualties have been on the rise for the second straight year. These acts are clear violation of the laws of war and shameful stains on our common humanity.

Particularly concerning trend is the reported use of victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) acting as antipersonnel mines, which fall under the definition of an anti-personnel landmine and as such are prohibited by the APMBC. The extensive, almost factory-level production of these types of landmines, continues to bear the hideous trademark of the D'aesh group mostly operating in Syria and Iraq.

In keeping with the international norm established by this Convention, Croatia strongly condemns use of landmines anywhere, anytime, by anyone, under any circumstances. As a country that has a first-hand experience of the humanitarian, economic, environmental and developmental harm that landmines cause, we will not get tired and we will not stop vocally and publicly condemning their use and calling on both states and non-state actors to refrain from the manufacture, trade and use of these weapons.

Thank you.