



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

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON UNIVERSALIZATION**

Thank you Madam President.

At the outset, we would like to commend Afghanistan and you personally Madam President, for the effortless engagement in promoting the life-saving norms of this Convention during your presidency.

Croatia aligns itself with the EU Statement.

As a strong proponent of multilateralism, Croatia continues to see the adherence of all states to this humanitarian treaty among top priorities in its foreign policy. We are therefore seizing every opportunity to promote the Convention and its norm in order to stop the use of landmines and improvised landmines and their inhumane impact on civilians. That said, we repeat our call to the states not parties to abide by the Convention's norms pending their adherence by adopting interim measures, which will demonstrate commitment to its humanitarian principles.

Croatia also recognizes the important role that civil society continues to play in the framework of this Convention. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), global humanitarian mine action operators and organizations, as well as their publications - the *Landmine Monitor Report* and the *Mine Action Review* – these are all rightfully seen as the States Parties' key partners in maintaining the APMBC as an effective and dynamic humanitarian disarmament instrument.

In keeping with the promise that we as the community gave to all victims and survivors of anti-personnel mines, and in the line with the commitment from the Maputo Declaration of a world free of mines until 2025, Croatia intends to do its part in further strengthening the Convention's role and promoting its universality.

Thank you.