



THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Fifth Review Conference (5RC) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the
Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on
Their Destruction**

Siem Reap, Cambodia from 25 to 29 November 2024.

Statement

Agenda item 8. Review of the operation and status of the Convention

(c) Clearing mined areas

**Ministry of the Interior
Civil Protection Directorate**

NOVEMBER 2024

Mr. President, Excellences', Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow us to thank you and your Government for the warm hospitality that we are privileged to enjoy here in Siem-Reap at the Fifth Review Conference on a Mine-Free World and for the efficient work you have done during preparations for the Conference.

The Republic of Croatia aligns itself with the EU statements and continues to express strong support towards the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in all its aspects, especially in line within undertaken obligations while strongly advocating for the implementation of transparency measures, universalization, providing assistance to Victims and encouraging international cooperation.

Important achievements and positive trends in clearing the mined areas in the period since the Fourth Review Conference confirms our commitment in fulfilling the obligations and goals of the Convention, as well as 2nd Extension request submitted by Croatia, with the deadline of completing all Article 5 obligations until the end of March, 2026.

Since the November 2019 and the 4th RC the Republic of Croatia had released 252.8 square kilometers of land, almost 140 by clearance and 115 by survey activities, creating environment free of landmines and unexploded ordnance in 4 Counties and 32 Towns or Municipalities, while we further expect to release additional 2 Counties until the end of 2024. Additionally, in the 2019-2024 timeframe, there were more than 11.500 Anti-Personnel mines, almost 3.500 Anti-Tank mines, and 18.000 Unexploded Ordnances found and destroyed in the cleared areas. In the observed period it is evident that there was a strong national ownership and motivation to continue with the clearance activities in accordance with the defined deadlines. The majority of funds invested towards Mine Action since the last Review Conference reached more than 250 million Euros and were predominately distributed from the National Budget funds with a share of 68%, while the European Funds have continued with the positive and significant trend in supplementing clearance activities in Croatia with additional 31%. The remaining funds were generously allocated from the Swiss-Croatian

Cooperation Programme, with projects that have had a significant impact towards Mine Victim support and their socio-economic integration.

The current remaining challenges are defined at 61 square kilometers of Hazardous area in 21 Towns and Municipalities with presumed contamination of more than 8.000 of landmines. The updated Work plan of The Republic of Croatia until 2026, that was made available to the Mine Action public in mid-2024, presented how Croatia is still firmly on track in completing the Article 5 obligations with a strong indication that the current resources are in line with the established milestones.

In addition to clearance operations, providing mine risk education to populations currently or anticipated to be at- risk is a primary activity of Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. From the Fourth Review Conference more than 760 mine risk educations were held involving almost 60.000 participants. All previous risk educations were and will be held in line with the Actions 26 to 29 of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan.

Furthermore, Republic of Croatia welcomes the final documents that we will adopt here in Siem-Reap: The Siem Reap – Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 and a Declaration on a Mine-Free World 2024 because we firmly believe they are an essential tool for fulfilling the ambition of our joint determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, so we once again, encourage all States and parties involved to commit to its full implementation, especially now, when we are witnessing new and protracted brutal aggressions and conflicts.

In conclusion, the Republic of Croatia will continue with its comprehensive efforts to complete Article 5 obligations with a goal of completing all clearance and survey operations until the end of 2025, while, in the same time, is available to share its knowledge and experience in the relevant Mine Action pillar.

Thank you, Mr. President.