



## **THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**Geneva, 1-5 December 2025**

## **Statement**

**9. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention**

**a) ASSISTING THE VICTIMS**

**The Ministry of the Interior  
Civil Protection Directorate**

**DECEMBER 2025**

Mr President, excellences', distinguished delegates, colleagues and stakeholders of the global mine action system,

the Republic of Croatia continues to express strong support towards the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in all its aspects, especially in line with undertaken obligations while strongly advocating for the implementation of transparency measures, providing assistance to Victims of mines and UXOs while offering international cooperation support, in line with the Actions 30 through 39 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

Even though Republic of Croatia is finalizing all the operational efforts and clearance of all known mine contaminated areas which will be completed until the defined deadline of March 2026, the continuation of efforts and support for the mine and other ERWs victims is and will continue to be a predominant factor of importance in the forthcoming years, as it is well known that "mine free is not a victim free" country.

In that manner it is important to emphasize the following Actions that the Republic of Croatia will continue to implement with a strong motivation to improve the provided measures as well:

- Ensuring a competent government Focal point which is currently and will be after the finalization of clearance efforts within Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior as the NMAA with a goal to actively continue with the ministries and other relevant stakeholders' coordination efforts,
- ensuring continuation of multi-sectoral coordination to align victim assistance with disability and human rights frameworks,
- continuing with the management of a comprehensive EO victim database, gathering and analyzing, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of girls, boys, woman and men from diverse populations and all ages which has already in the previous few years improved the scope of needs and diversity aspects and enabled the creation of support programs that do not overlap with the usual programs implemented at the government national level through various ministries, while in the same time collecting disaggregated data for a comprehensive and effective response, ensuring emergency response capabilities are robust and accessible in the sense of new EO victims,
- maintaining a national referral system and service directory to facilitate access to rehabilitation services, assistive technologies, psychological and mental health services and socio-economic support, especially in underserved and remote affected communities,
- Continue to provide comprehensive mental health support, social and economic inclusion programs, and protection within humanitarian response plans which are inclusive in the current Civil Protection disaster risk management strategies relevant to 2030.

- Finally, the Republic of Croatia will maintain the high level of accessibility involving mine and other explosive ordnance survivors in planning and decision-making at all levels.

Concerning the number of mine victims, widely organized EORE activities in the Republic of Croatia with the extensive mine risk marking system resulted with only one civilian victim in the last four years. Unfortunately, the harsh reality of clearance activities in Croatia has once again in the 2025 proved how demining is an extremely dangerous and psychologically demanding profession. During 2025 there were 2 accounted mine accidents with 2 causalities.

During May, a deminer was injured during mechanical clearance from the anti-personnel bounding fragmentation landmine, while another incident occurred during June with unfortunately fatal outcome when one deminer died during clearance activities from UXO.

All of this, once again, proves the deadly legacy and impact of landmines and UXOs even more than 30 years after they were emplaced, which, in the case of the Republic of Croatia, increased the number of fatal outcomes to 208 people, from the end of the Homeland war, up to date, which includes 41 deminers that were killed during clearance activities.

In conclusion, the Republic of Croatia will continue with its comprehensive efforts to improve national activities in the mentioned field, and, at the same time, is available to share its knowledge and experience concerning the relevant Mine Action pillar.