



**THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**The Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban  
Convention Oslo, 25-29 November 2019**

**General Statement by Mr.Damir Trut, PhD**

**Assistant Minister in the Croatian Ministry of the Interior**

**Agenda item 6.**

**TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER**

Mr President, conference participants, colleagues and shareholders of the world mine-action system,

Allow me first to thank the Kingdom of Norway for organising the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. I would also like to thank the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Croatia, her Excellency Ms. Astrid Versto, for personally inviting me to attend the Conference.

I am attending this Conference in the capacity of the Head of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. As of January 1st this year, the Civil Protection Directorate became the enforcement and coordination authority of the anti-personnel mine action in the Republic of Croatia.

It is my pleasure to report that these organizational, coordination and operational changes have increased the efficiency of the civil protection system and consequently mine action.

Important achievements and positive trends in mine action in the period since the last review conference confirm our commitment to fulfilling the obligations and goals of the Convention. Please allow me to highlight the most important achievements.

Mine suspected areas of the Republic of Croatia have been reduced by 256 square kilometres. Six counties and 26 towns and municipalities have been completely cleared of mines. I am especially pleased to emphasise that **all** the remaining agricultural areas have been demined and returned to the community for use and that the mine suspected areas are now exclusively forest and mountainous areas.

Over 100.000 landmines and explosive remnants of war were found and destroyed in the demining process. Around 253,7 million euro was invested in these activities, out of which around 130 million euro from the government budget and public undertakings, and around 120,4 million euro from EU funds, or slightly more than 47%. This is an excellent opportunity to emphasise the European contribution to demining Croatia **and thank the Union** for the grants invested in mine clearance in Croatia.

On behalf of the Republic of Croatia, I wish to assure **you** and the distinguished participants that Croatia and Croatian Government will invest all available human and financial resources, as well as knowledge and experience acquired so far, in order to fully implement the “Oslo Action Plan” into the national framework and National Mine Action Strategy.

Regarding the Action Plan as such, we believe it to be a high quality document, which precisely identifies challenges ahead, offering at the same time practical and applicable solutions for implementing Anti Personne Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in the coming review period.

This is of an utmost importance to countries such as Croatia which are still facing mine challenge , but that have a firm political resolve as well as suitable technical know-how and capacities to deal with threat that mines cause.

We therefore welcome the direction this document is taking. Particularly its concrete and rational approach that makes these very demanding tasks much easier for the states parties.

Following the guidelines of the Action Plan, we will invest all our efforts primarily into fulfilling our commitments according to Article 5 of the Anti Personne Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in order to make Croatia completely mine free within the given deadline. At the same time, we will wholeheartedly and actively participate in other mine action areas, in particular in Mine Victim Assistance, Mine Risk Education, international cooperation and assistance.

Having gone through the challenge of building our own mine action system, we strongly believe that we are now in a position to truly show our commitment and responsibility in every aspect of mine action, both nationally and internationally.

In cooperation with other states parties and other stakeholders, we will continue to promote devotion to the Convention at the global level.

This is something that we owe to the generations to come. Rest assured that, in this joint effort, Croatia would be a reliable partner you can count on!

Thank you!