



THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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

Agenda item 7. Review of the operation and status of the Convention

d. Assisting the victims

by Mr. Damir Trut PhD.

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TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Thank you Mr. President.

The Republic of Croatia has highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. There are 4 basic forms of MVA (*Mine Victim Assistance*) in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation.

Psychosocial interdisciplinary centers are available in all 21 counties with four being regional centers for psychological services that provide psychotherapeutic services, with the main center in the capital Zagreb. House of Croatian Veterans is accommodation / rehabilitation institution that can permanently or temporarily reside Homeland War veterans, returnees from the peacekeeping missions, injured deminers and members of their families, civilian war victims, as well as other persons in need (including ERW (*explosive remnants of war*) victims and survivors), depending on their health status and socio-economic situation (for the time being, one center is operational and running with others in plan to opened).

Developed system of continued mine risk education, as well as the marking of suspected hazardous areas, has resulted in a significant reduction of mine victims in the Republic of Croatia. In mine accidents over the last review period, four people have been killed and eight have suffered bodily injuries. There have been no UXO (*unexploded ordinance*) casualties in the last three years and the last civilian casualty occurred in 2014.

In the review period, the Republic of Croatia especially stresses the ongoing project related to providing assistance to mine victims within the "Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme".

The project includes demining of the protected forest area and mine victim assistance in terms of their successful integration. Within this project we plan to establish a comprehensive data base on mine victims, needs assessments and implementation on training courses and other forms of support.

In the next period, the plan is to strengthen the Coordination body at the national level established by the Mine Action Law. It will be composed of representatives of ministries competent for home affairs, health and war veterans, Croatian Pension Insurance Institute, Croatian Institute of Public Health and other bodies and non-government organizations whose scope of competence includes the issue of victims of explosive remnants of war.

In conclusion, the Republic of Croatia supports the guidelines of the Action Plan in the field of MVA (*Mine Victim Assistance*) it will strive to improve the effectiveness of its efforts and will continue to be available for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the mine action segment.