



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 7-8 June 2018**

**INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON THE ISSUE OF RETAINED ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES**

Thank you Madam President.

- As duly stated in our Article 7 Transparency Report for 2017, Croatia retains a certain number of anti-personnel mines, as permitted under the Article 3 of the Convention, for purposes of training, development and research. Said mines are safely and securely stored in the Croatian Armed Forces' storage site.
- The main purpose of retention besides training is testing of demining machines, dogs and detectors as well as scientific activities. Thus, in 2017 the Centre for Testing, Development and Training Ltd. (CTDT) used 474 mines for testing and research while the Croatian Armed Forces used 3 mines for training. If we look at the previous Article 7 reports, it is obvious that the number of retained mines is consistently decreasing.
- Example: during September 2017, the CTDT Ltd. provided testing of a Zone Depollution System (SDZ) machine owned by a French company CEFA. The test took four weeks and was conducted in accordance with the IMAS Test and Evaluation Protocol for machines (CWA 15044).
- Since we are expecting to keep similar level of interest from foreign companies to conduct testing of their demining machines in 2018, we find the amount of retained AP mines to be fit for the purpose.

Thank you.