

Dear Co-Chairs, esteemed colleagues,

Since in our intervention at previous Meetings of the States Parties we reported extensively on our plans and priorities regarding the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under Croatian jurisdiction or control, as well as on the work that remains to be done in order to fulfill this obligation (including detail break down of the structure of mined land), we will not elaborate on this issue here again.

Having in mind the request issued by the Co-Chairs to strictly confine ourselves to new information we would like to stress the following:

Croatia has accepted National Mine Action Strategy in year 2000. Upon completion of general survey activities (the general survey activities will continue but not in current scope), expected for July 2007, CROMAC will prepare a new plan to fulfill requests from article 5 of the Mine Ban Convention. In first phase the emphasis will be on the area important for safety of citizens, socio-economic development and ecological priorities. Our estimation is that these first priority problems are around 250 km² and covering area for reconstruction of houses, infrastructure, agricultural area, National parks and Parks of Nature as well as wild depos. At same time we will continue to work on reduction particularly in forest areas that in structure of MSA covers more than 54%.

Since last meeting in September the MSA was reduced with demining activities for 15,744.594 m², and by general survey for additional 75 km². The MSA on January 1, 2007 was 1044 km², and we are expecting that when we finish this phase of general survey, MSA will be less than 1,000 km². As I mentioned before, the emphasis will be on how to reduce MSA in forests to the level of real problem. We will have to prepare new procedures in general survey and in finding new methods of area reduction. The plan for this year is to demine 29 km² for what is secured 39.0 mil. EUR. From State Budget 22.0 mil. EUR, private and public companies 10.0 mil. EUR and from donors 7.0 mil. EUR. The demining finds from the World Bank Loan for the socio-economic development of area of special state concern in amount of 15.0 mil. EUR will be available from the end of this year. The Government is making a strong efforts to find additional sources of financing and we hope that the international donor community will continue to support demining activities in Croatia at least on same level as till now.

Since the beginning of systematic activities on demining of the Republic of Croatia in 1998 more than 290 million EUR was spent for demining works. Of this figure 85% are Croatian funds. Demining was precondition for reconstruction of houses and infrastructure that was destroyed in the terrible war

behind us. Now when the majority of the problems for return of the displaced persons is solved, we are continuing with demining activities on agricultural land and other areas that will help social and economic recovery of mine affected parts of Croatia. The demining capacities are well developed. There are 28 demining companies and 1 NGO (Norwegian Peoples Aid) with 616 deminers, 54 demining machines, 125 mine detection dogs and more than 700 metal detectors operating in Croatia. Total investment of the private companies in their equipment is around 30.0 mil. EUR. Although the large sum of funds were invested in demining it is still not enough to fulfil obligations from the Convention.

These capacities are capable to demine around 40 km² per year. In order to fulfill our obligations from the Convention, after expected 10 year extension, the yearly capacity will have to increase up to 60-65 km². For these activities the investments in demining activities will have to double from today's 40.0 mil. EUR to at least 70.0 mil. EUR.

Croatia, with already established institutions, is capable to fulfill in total all obligations arising from the Mine Ban Treaty, but without financial help from international community this process will be slower.

Thank you for your attention.