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ADDRESS BY

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AT THE

ELEVENTH MEETING OF STATE PARTIES

**OTTAWA CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-
PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011

Mr. President, Dear Co-Chairs, Esteemed Colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to present information about the progress of the Republic of Croatia in achieving goals put forward in the approved extension request and our obligation to clear Croatia from landmines by 2019.

Since our last report, the Suspected Hazardous Area (hereinafter: SHA) was significantly reduced. From the beginning of this year, mine clearance operations resulted in reduction of suspected hazardous area (SHA) for 26 km². Non-technical survey operations resulted in reduction of additional 24 km². Current SHA amounts to 765 km². During demining operations, 1 817 anti-personnel mines, 2 300 anti-tank mines and 8 165 pieces of unexploded ordinances were found and destroyed. Such results were achieved thanks to the engagement of 31 demining companies, 626 deminers, 55 demining machines, 18 mine detection dogs and 654 metal detectors.

The entire suspected hazardous area (SHA) is marked with 15.926 big mine warning signs and several thousands of small format signs. In that context, I would like to mention CROMAC MISportal, a unique web application of the Croatian Mine Action Centre that provides each Internet user a direct insight into the current status of suspected hazardous area and marking situation on the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia.

By November 1, 2011, about 33 million EUR were spent for mine clearance activities in Croatia. The major funding source for mine action in Croatia is the State Budget (some 23,3 million EUR), followed by public and state owned companies and investors; primarily the state owned company "Croatian Forests", with some 7 million EUR, and foreign governments, organizations and individual donors (some 2 million EUR). As a candidate country to the EU membership, Croatia is currently in the process of applying for the EU funds to be allocated from the EU Pre-Accession funds and spent for the realization of demining projects in Croatia. This year, CROMAC has already signed two contracts totalling 4,6 million EUR. One of these projects that we would like to put a special emphasis on is the joint project with the Republic of Hungary. The aim of the project is to clear the entire suspected hazardous area (SHA) on both sides of the Hungarian-Croatian border. CROMAC will continue applying for the EU funds with well-prepared projects intended for the rehabilitation of war-affected areas and mine clearance of the natural protected areas.

From 1998, when the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the Croatian Mine Action Centre, until today, 500 million EUR has been invested into mine clearance operations. As we have already informed the State Parties on many occasions, the Croatian State Budget has the largest share in overall

financing of mine clearance and participates with some 58% of total funds invested. If we take into account the Croatian public companies, private investors, donors and the World Bank Loans that Croatia has already repaid; 86% of all funds spent for mine search and demining operations in Croatia come from the Croatian sources.

In the reporting period, Croatia registers 7 mine incidents involving 6 mine victims (5 injured and 1 killed). Out of these 6 victims, 2 were civilians and 4 were deminers (1 killed). What we believe to be very important is the constant trend of reduction of mine incidents involving civilians as well as the fact that we have not had any mine incidents involving children since 2004.

Mine risk education (MRE) and mine victim assistance (MVA) activities have been conducted during this period with coordinative role of the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and co-operation with NGOs, government institutions and international organizations. CROMAC is actively involved in the campaign "Less Weapons, Less Trouble" organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Croatian Ministry of Interior by holding MRE and MVA-related lectures and presentations. This year we started the so called "educating educators" programme intended for people that will be implementing mine risk education programmes for the most vulnerable groups of citizens such as hunters and farmers.

In the field of new technologies and methodologies we are proud to inform you that the new methodology of the "Airborne Survey" was tested and validated in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The method of Airborne Survey achieved the extraordinary results in reduction of suspected hazardous area (SHA). For more information on the Airborne Survey method, feel free to contact CROMAC-Centre for Training, Development and Testing and its representative who is also the member of our delegation.

The Republic of Croatia has, during the reporting period, concluded several important co-operations agreements and is opened for all forms of joint co-operations with other mine-affected countries throughout the world. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to inform you that the Republic of Croatia continues with its traditional international symposiums on humanitarian demining in 2012 too.

Allow me to conclude this brief address by emphasizing the strong belief and commitment of the Republic of Croatia to solve the mine problem during the scheduled timeframe despite of the fact that we are all facing the global financial crisis and donor fatigue.

Thank you.