



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON UNIVERSALIZATION

13th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE APMBC Geneva, 2 - 5 December 2013

Thank you Mr. President.

Allow me to briefly inform you on our efforts to promote the APMBC in 2013.

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and Office for Mine Action, together with Croatian Mine Action Centre, organized *Ottawa Convention Seminar: Human Security and Cooperation* in November 2013. This was the third activity related to the mentioned convention organized by RACVIAC and its partners.

Objectives of the Seminar were: to inform the participants about the dual nature of the Ottawa Convention (Security vs. Humanitarian issues); to examine the state-of-affairs regarding international cooperation and assistance in the SEE by setting an example of security cooperation on national, regional and international level; to provide a forum for discussion of these issues in the broader context of Disarmament; to explore future prospects in the mine action technology development; finally, to deepen contacts between representatives of various national and international organizations and institutions dealing with the implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

Around 35 participants attended the Seminar, representing SEE countries, as well as other countries and international organizations.

The Seminar was divided in two parts, for instance, the theoretical day, which was comprised of presentations and discussions, and the practical day, when participants visited demining worksite near the town of Sisak and HQ of Croatian Mine Action Centre in the same town.

Finally, let me thank the Government of Germany for the continuation of their generous financial support in arranging this Seminar.

Thank you Mr. President.