



**14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**  
Geneva, 30 November - 4 December 2015

**INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
ON UNIVERSALIZATION**

Thank you Mr. President.

The International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition Mine Action 2015, the annual international gathering of mine action experts, was held under the high patronage of the Croatian Parliament Speaker (Mr. Josip Leko) from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in Biograd. The Symposium drew attendance of 175 participants from 36 countries.

Within five panels, the experts discussed the explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination and their impact during natural disasters, based on the example of the 2014 flooding of mine suspected areas in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Considering the contamination by ERW that adds to the overall threat caused by natural disasters, a regional project was conducted, called “Mine Action after the Floods - Regional Synergy, Technology Development and Capacity Building” whose results were presented. The Symposium provided an overview of the latest scientific and practical achievements and offered sustainable solutions in dealing with cluster munitions and mines (final stages of projects TIRAMISU and D-BOX were presented). Participants used this opportunity to share their experiences, both technological and managerial. Special emphasis was given to demonstration of equipment and new developments in the field of robotic systems (the work of the International Advanced Robotic Program - IARP). A part of the program traditionally devoted to cluster munitions was co-organized with the RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in Croatia.

As a practical part of the Symposium, there were several demonstrations including demining machines, the MEDIVAC helicopter, training of honeybees to detect explosives, detection of explosive devices containing depleted uranium and the work of mine detection dogs.

Thank you Mr. President.