



**14th 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 GENERAL STATUS / COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Thank you Mr. President.

My delegation has decided to take the floor on the issue of compliance with the Convention's obligations, as we are convinced that the credibility of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is largely due to how we, as States Parties, collectively deal with the question of various issues of compliance with the core legal obligations of the Convention. Needless to say that this also applies to the regrettable situation which now seems like a chronic lack of progress in implementing key operative provisions, such as protracted implementation of Article 5.

There is no doubt that the Convention has been a huge success addressing the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines in its first years. But what seems like an emerging pattern of confirmed and possible non-compliance situations, is a threat to the credibility of the Convention.

It is for this reason that we are deeply alarmed by the information that anti-personnel landmines have been recently used (2014/2015 by government forces) in three states non-parties to the Convention - Myanmar, North Korea and Syria. We strongly condemn these actions, a condemnation that extends to the reported use of anti-personnel mines by the armed non-state actors, such as Houthis (Ansar Allah) in Yemen or pro-Russian rebel groups in Ukraine as well as to the use of victim activated-IEDs by Taliban in Afghanistan and ISIS (Da'esh) in Iraq. We should also like to remind this meeting about strongly substantiated reports of anti-personnel landmines' use in previous years in at least three States Parties to the Convention: South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

We therefore urge that the states and non-state actors concerned by these reports swiftly address these issues, provide the necessary clarifications based on thorough investigations and, take the appropriate legal steps. All necessary measures should be taken to prevent and suppress any future prohibited action and to ensure that, firstly, no more human suffering will be caused from these inhumane weapons and, secondly, that those that have fallen victim receive the adequate assistance.

Mr. President, it is the responsibility of every State Party to ensure compliance with the Convention. However, it is equally important how each individual state party respond to questions regarding their own compliance, and then how we (states parties) as a collective address these situations, in order to protect the integrity of the Convention and to ensure the protection of civilians.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts by the civil society, ICBL/HRW in particular, in providing relevant facts and continuously putting these issues on our agenda.

Thank you.