



**15th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**
Santiago, 28th November – 1st December 2016

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON UNIVERSALIZATION**

Thank you Mr. President / Mr./Ms. Coordinator.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) sets up a strict set of rules for banning the inhumane weapon and has been seen as a crucial contributor to the strengthening of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The total number of States Parties to the treaty has now reached 162, which is approximately 84% of all UN member states. This number speaks volumes to the fact that this Convention truly is a driving force for protecting the lives of people from landmines.

However, it is also a fact that 34 states still remain outside of the APMBC, which is why we continue to encourage states that have not yet done so, to consider finalizing their internal procedures for the accession to the Convention as soon as possible. We also urge all States Parties to actively work with those states which are not parties and have indicated their interest in joining the Convention. We particularly see the merit in turning our efforts to regions in which adherence to the Convention is low (or almost non-existent).

Regarding the states not parties to the Convention, we call upon them to abide by the Convention's norms pending their adherence to the Convention. In that sense, we strongly support the adoption of interim measures which demonstrate commitment to the humanitarian principles of the Convention, such as moratoria on the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines; clearing mined areas; providing assistance to victims; providing information about stockpiles of mines or destroying them; submitting a voluntary transparency report or voting in favor of annual UN GA resolution.

Croatia recognizes the important role that civil society continues to play maintaining the momentum established when this Convention came into force 17 years ago. We applaud the work of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and particularly of the annual Landmine Monitor Report, which is an indispensable resource enabling the international community to measure progress and inform how to address the remaining landmine challenges.

Thank you.