



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 8 - 9 June 2017**

**INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON COOPERATIVE COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Thank you Mr./Ms. President/Coordinator.

Croatia is convinced that the credibility of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is largely due to how we, as the States Parties, collectively deal with the question of various issues of compliance with the core legal obligations of the Convention.

It is for this reason that we are deeply disturbed by the latest Human Rights Watch report (from April 2017) on the (continuous) use of landmines by the warring parties in Yemen. HRW researchers have been provided with the lists of people wounded by landmines in several Yemeni governorates done by the health professionals and local activists on the ground. Besides the use of antipersonnel landmines, which is a clear violation of the laws of war, the worrying issue is the indiscriminate use of antivehicle mines and the failure to take adequate precautions to avoid civilian casualties. Particularly concerning trend, however, is the reported use of victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) acting as antipersonnel mines, which fall under the definition of an antipersonnel landmine and as such are prohibited by the Mine Ban Treaty.

In keeping with the international norm being established by the Mine Ban Treaty, we strongly condemn these actions, primarily because of the humanitarian harm that landmines cause. Thus, the use of antipersonnel mines is therefore never acceptable under any circumstances. If the use has indeed occurred, the responsible ones must be held accountable according to applicable national legislation.

Mr./Ms. President/Coordinator,

It is important to acknowledge, and to take pride in the fact that, the overall record of implementation of and compliance with the Mine Ban Treaty has been undeniably impressive, especially compared to other international instruments. That success above all reflects the collective sense of responsibility to end the suffering caused by antipersonnel mines. What we have called the “cooperative compliance” approach of this treaty has worked well, an approach underpinned by trust, good will, and the desire to facilitate proper implementation and compliance.

We believe the APMBC is strong enough to address serious compliance issues head on, and not to look the other way or sweep them under the carpet because non-compliance directly corresponds to a weakened humanitarian impact of the treaty. Twenty years after its negotiation, the treaty is being seriously tested. We implore States Parties to rise to the occasion.

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

Thank you.