



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
Office of the Director



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

OSLO CONVENTION – WORKSHOP ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Co-organized with

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia

- Dates** 23-26 May 2011
- Venue** RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia.
- Background** The Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was signed in Oslo, Norway, on 2-3 December 2008, is the result of a global movement spearheaded by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which banded together in November 2003 to establish the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC). Supported initially by Norway, Austria, Ireland, Mexico and New Zealand, soon joined by Peru, they sought to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, a conventional weapon which causes “excessive and persistent harm to civilian populations”.
- Acknowledging* that the most affected countries need international cooperation and assistance to solve their problems caused by cluster munitions;
Mindful of the difficulties faced by the most affected countries to fulfill their international obligations with regards to the clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants without international cooperation and assistance;
- it is the right time for RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia to co-organize a Seminar on the meaning, importance and effect that this convention will have on human security.
- Purpose & Objectives** The purpose of this Seminar is to enable participants to acquaint themselves with the Convention on Cluster Munitions signed in Oslo, on 2-3 December 2008, by the representatives of 94 governments present.
The objectives of the Seminar are:
- To inform the participants on the various aspects of cluster munitions, (Technological Characteristics and Humanitarian Impact);
 - To inform the participants about the nature of the Convention (Security Aspects and Human Rights Issues);
 - To provide a forum for discussion of the above in the context of Disarmament and Humanitarian Law with an eye to the growing effectiveness of non-traditional diplomacy.
- Participants** Participants from approximately 30 countries or organizations, representing relevant Ministries and Agencies involved, are expected to attend.
Lecturers representing a variety of states, affected and non-affected (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway), as well as international organizations (CMC, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GIGHD), South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), Mine Action Centres), from governmental and non-governmental sectors, will share their expertise and experiences.
- Methodology** The Seminar will be divided into 3 segments. The 1st segment will examine the background: what is the impetus for the Convention and why it came into being. Also, it will focus on the steps leading to the Oslo signing; the perspective given will be that of the core actors in the convention making process, both governmental and non-governmental.
The 2nd segment will provide an opportunity for international experts to discuss theoretical issues and share on-the-ground experience with cluster munitions (UNDP, GIGHD and Norway). These discussions will be followed by panel presentations of national (regional)

experts from BiH, Croatian and Serbian Mine Action Centres, who will present their specific experiences, problems and lessons learned.

The 3rd segment will consist of a panel of national and international NGOs who will share their insights and experience on mine clearance and victim assistance.

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