WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Co-organized with
the Government Office for Mine Action of the Republic of Croatia,
the Norwegian People’s Aid and
the Ministry of Defence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹

Dates
13 - 16 May 2013

Venue
Skopje, MK

Background
The Convention on Cluster Munitions was opened for signature in Oslo, Norway, on 2 December 2008. By February 2010, the required 30 ratifications were achieved and the Convention entered into force on 1 August 2010, thereby becoming international legally binding document.

With a view to encouraging the States Parties to the Convention to fulfil their international obligations under the Convention and recognizing the need for international cooperation and assistance, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and its partners have decided to co-organize a workshop on the implementation of the Convention in South Eastern Europe.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of this workshop is to share the latest developments related to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The objectives of the workshop are:
• To provide the participants with an overview of the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
• To inform the participants about the results of the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) held in Oslo, Norway, 11 – 14 September 2012;
• To provide a forum for discussion on the implementation of the Convention in South Eastern Europe with a focus on retention and destruction as well as national strategies, implementation plans, progress reports, possible international and regional cooperation and needs for support from outside the region;
• To provide an opportunity to observe one process of disposal of cluster munitions stockpiles.

Participants
Approximately 30 participants, representing different countries, relevant ministries, agencies and organizations, are expected to attend. Lecturers include experts willing to share their expertise and experiences, coming from different cluster munitions-affected and non-affected states, as well as international organizations from both governmental and non-governmental sectors (Cluster Munitions Coalition (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).

Methodology
The event will take place in the form of a workshop. It will give national and international experts, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations an opportunity to share their experience and jointly address challenges concerning the implementation of the Convention with focus on retention and destruction. The workshop will include a demonstration of cluster munitions destruction by disassembly and demolition.

POC
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¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.