



**CENTRE FOR SECURITY  
COOPERATION**

**Towards OSLO 2008:  
Workshop on Cluster  
Munitions**

**21 – 24 October 2008**

*Co-organized with Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs and European  
Integration of the Republic of  
Croatia*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

According to the RACVIAC programme 2008 Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Workshop “Towards OSLO 2008: Workshop on Cluster Munitions”, C-07 in the period of 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The Workshop was carried out in English language.

The purpose of this Workshop was to enable participants to acquaint themselves with the Convention on Cluster Munitions adopted in Dublin on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008 by the 123 governments present.



*The text of the Convention*

**2. PROGRAM/METHODOLOGY**

The Workshop comprised presentations, which provided the participants with all the necessary information about the Convention on Cluster Munitions and aspects it covered, followed by intense and lively discussions.

**a) Workshop objectives:**

- To inform the participants on 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 on the abovementioned issues in the context of Disarmament and Humanitarian Law with an eye to the growing effectiveness of non-traditional diplomacy.

**b) Participation**



*Workshop Participants*

In total 30 participants and lecturers, representing 23 countries or organizations attended the Workshop. Participants were namely from: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Croatia (4), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* (1), France (1), Moldova (1), Serbia (1), Slovenia (1), Turkey (1), Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB-1) and ARESA/Denmark (3).

The lecturers came from: Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Bulgaria (1), Croatia (2), Norway (1), Serbia (1), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian

Demining (GICHD-1), Handicap International (1), ITF/ Slovenia (1), Norwegian People's Aid/ Serbia (1), NAMSA/NATO (1) and UN Mine Action Service (1).

### **c) Overview of the Workshop**

This was the first time that RACVIAC organized an activity related to Cluster Munitions. This workshop replaced the course on Ottawa Convention on antipersonnel mines, which had been organized for the last 2 years. It proved to be a successful choice and on right time, just before the Convention for Cluster Munitions will be opened for signature in Oslo, Norway, on 2-3 December 2008.



*Day 1 Session*

Colonel Tomislav Vibovec, Deputy Director of RACVIAC and Ambassador Davor Božinović State Secretary for European Integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia opened the workshop.

The workshop was divided into 3 segments. The 1<sup>st</sup> segment (Day 1) examined the background: i.e. the impetus for the Convention or why it came into being. Also, it focused on the steps leading to the Dublin Diplomatic Conference; that is how it came together. The given perspective was that of the core actors in the convention making process, both governmental and non-governmental.

Dr. Dijana Pleština, Advisor to the Minister for Mine Action, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, gave the opening remarks and Mr. Stan Brabant (Head of Policy Unit, Handicap International) spoke about the role of Cluster Munitions Coalition. Ms. Yana Mihaylova (Director, International Cooperation and European Integration Department Bulgarian Red Cross) presented the perspective of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Finally Dr. Cornelia Kratochvil (Counsellor for Military Affairs, Austrian Permanent Mission to the UN Office in Geneva), described the steps which led to the Oslo process.



*Day 1 Session*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> segment (second parts of Day 1 and Day 2) focused on theoretical issues and on-the-ground experience in cluster munitions as presented and examined by international experts. Mr. Christopher Clark (United Nations Chief Technical Advisor / Programme Manager, South Lebanon United Nations Mine Action Service) gave a solid picture of the cluster munitions, which had been used in operations as well as their disastrous consequences. Ms. Vera Bohle (Evaluation and Disarmament Specialist/Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining) spoke about the Cluster Munition Clearance and the Stockpile Destruction. Mr. Peter Courtney-Green (NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency), on the last presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> day, gave the NATO perspective for Stockpile Destruction of Cluster Munitions.



*Ms. Vera Bohle (GICHD)*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day started with a brief presentation delivered by Mr. Jens Erik Grondahl, Deputy Head of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Zagreb, followed by a session about victim's assistance. The main speakers on the said subject were Ms. Anesa Kundurović (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr. Stan Brabant. The last session of the day was a panel presentation by national (regional) experts from the Mine Action Centres of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia who displayed their particular experiences, problems and lessons learned.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> segment (Day 3) a panel of national and international NGOs representatives shared their insights and experience on mine clearance and victim assistance. Mr. Gregor Sančanin (Project Manager, International Trust Fund for Demining & Victims Assistance) and Mr. Emil Jeremić (Regional Representative, Norwegian People's Aid, Regional Office South Eastern Europe, Belgrade) presented on the contribution of their respective organizations on the abovementioned issues and Ms. Marija Breber (Executive Secretary, Mine Aid NGO) introduced Ms. Mina Žunac, a Cluster Munitions Survivor, who gave a very realistic description of her personal experience.

### **3. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

According to the participants' assessments provided at the end of the event, the

workshop proved successful, most interesting and well organized. They considered it valuable for their continuing work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of workshops in the future, aimed at contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region.



*Panel of Lecturers*

Issues to be highlighted:

- The invited lecturers presented in an excellent way all the issues related to Cluster Munitions: the steps to the Convention, the humanitarian issues and the on-the-ground experience with cluster munitions. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by all the participants.
- Participants' interest and motivation were very high. Even more, the moderators had often asked the participants to save their questions/comments for the next period or even for the next day.
- Generally, the participants were satisfied with the topics chosen. Therefore, it might be necessary for the next year to add one more day in order to have more discussion periods and questions/answers sessions.
- The cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of

Croatia was excellent. Especially, their contribution in inviting the proper lecturers, which was certainly most important for the success of the workshop.



*Col Vibovec presenting the Certificate to Ms. Pleština*

- All the presentations were very interesting. On several occasions the participants lacked time for further discussions and had to save their questions/comments for the next period or even for the following day. Therefore, if we will organize the same Workshop in the future, we have to reconsider the duration of the Workshop, either by adding more discussion periods or by extending them.

Compiled by: Major Lazaros Lazaridis, Course Director,  
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at  
[www.racviac.org](http://www.racviac.org)

*\* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name*