INTERVENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ON THE ISSUE OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IEDs)

CCW Amended Protocol II Group of Experts

Geneva, 7 April 2016

Mr. Coordinator,

Thank you for giving us the floor on this very important issue and at the same time thank you for your tireless and knowledgeable leadership in this process.

Croatia, of course, aligns itself with the EU statement, but would like to highlight a couple of issues from the national position.

Improvised explosive devices, or commonly known as IEDs, without any doubt represent one of the most serious (and rising) threats to international peace and security. Having in mind their devastating effect on people, it is obvious that States need to establish what their agenda regarding IEDs is – to better protect civilians or to reduce the impact on their armed and security forces. In our view, the answer is naturally – both; because the set-up of this particular agenda will then ultimately determine what measures are likely to have a positive impact on the behavior of parties to a conflict.

The IED threat is of a grave concern for all relevant stakeholders and as such is an impediment to full application of humanitarian assistance and provision of development aid. Thankfully, measures can be undertaken to tackle this challenge; whether it is data mapping of threats, victim assistance programs, IED awareness campaigns or monitoring and tracking of IED materials. For the successful implementation of all these activities, it is implied of course, that States and relevant organizations work hand-in-hand to ensure the best results. Thus, we are particularly grateful for the on-going work in updating the Compilation of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations aiming at addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials that can be used for IEDs.

Finally, due to certain re-shuffling in the state administration Croatia was not yet able to provide answers to the Coordinators’ questionnaire on national counter-IED frameworks, but we are certainly aiming to do so in the near future.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.