INTERVENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON THE ISSUE OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IEDs)
CCW Amended Protocol II Group of Experts

Geneva, 9 April 2015

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.

We are fully aware of the increasing threat posed by the use of IEDs, and the growing political and humanitarian impact caused by IED incidents which mainly affect civilian populations. As such, they are a real challenge to the wider disarmament community, as it was precisely detected and competently elaborated in the Coordinators’ most useful food-for-thought paper.

There is obviously a general conclusion that information sharing and international cooperation constitute vital elements for establishing successful counter-IEDs policies on national, regional and global levels. That is exactly why we think this kind of substantial discussions should be encouraged and continued in the coming period, thus promoting, among other things, a common terminology and the framework for understanding the issue of IEDs, leading to the ultimate goal of creating a comprehensive capability response to tackle them on a global level.

As mentioned before, policies to counter IED threat should be subject to diligent revision and regular update, particularly as these efforts require multiple capabilities to obtain concrete results. In this regard, technical information databases on employment and construction of IEDs are important to counter the threat that, unfortunately, continues to show increasing sophistication trends. However, the need for information must take into account national security interests as many details concerning IEDs are sensitive information which is making them more difficult to share.

This, however, should not discourage us as the community to abstain from taking active role in the joint fight against this scourge that is on a daily basis mercilessly taking human lives.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator.