



# CROATIA

Statement by

H. E. Ambassador Ivan Šimonović  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia

at

the United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting

Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for Stabilization,  
Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion

– *Check against delivery* –

*New York, 12 December 2024*

Your excellencies,  
Dear Colleagues,

Croatia recognises that the use of explosive weapons with wide area effect in populated areas has a devastating impact on civilians and civilian infrastructure and represents a blatant violation of the IHL.

Our particular concern is the use of anti-personnel landmines, threatening everyone, from civilians to humanitarian workers. In addition, land mines prevent the use of land for agriculture, infrastructure reconstruction, and the return of refugees, creating a permanent barrier to the normalization of life and development.

In Croatia, almost 30 years after the aggression against it, the demining process is still ongoing. In 2024 alone, 54 million Euros were invested in mine action activities, and over 9,500 persons had undergone some forms of mine risk education. According to our National Mine Action Program, and in accordance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Croatia will hopefully be mine free by 2026.

At the third Ukraine-South East Europe summit, held on 9 October this year in Dubrovnik, Croatia and Ukraine formalized the already existing cooperation, in line with the conclusions of the International Donors' Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine, held in Zagreb, Croatia on 11 and 12 October 2023. As of September 2024, Croatian demining robotic systems, 50 of them operational in Ukraine now, have cleared over 13,000,000 square meters of land.

Finally, dear colleagues, Croatia promotes the universal ratification of the Ottawa Convention, the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines, as well as assistance to their victims.

I thank you.