



**INTERVENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE DURING THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON
THE DRAFT MAPUTO ACTION PLAN**

**Second Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, 10 April 2014

Thank you Mr. President-Designate.

Croatia joins its voice to the voices expressed by many this morning and so well expressed in the paper presented by the European Union, as well as the ICRC and ICBL among others in support of the Draft Maputo Action Plan.

While we support the focus in the Action Plan on the importance of national plans and policies for disability, health, social service etc., we wish to note that it is important that we ensure this integration through upgrading of national policies rather than downgrading of victim assistance since in most mine affected countries money is an issue. Thus we support victim assistance integration into broader national policies but taking care not to downgrade victim assistance in the process.

After all, not only is victim assistance in the full spirit of our convention, it is also a matter of human rights as well as of economic rationality for it is economically rational to enable all people to work and earn an income from which they can support themselves and their families.

Thank you.