

RACVIAC, April 16, 2015

**RE: Invitation to the 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop of the South East Europe Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) Initiative**

Dear Sir/Madame,

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend **the 8th RASR Workshop**, which will be held from 20 to 22 May 2015 in Hotel Medena, Split, Republic of Croatia.

The Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) initiative is a long-term, coordinated, regional approach to address the threats posed by excess, unstable, loosely secured or otherwise at-risk stockpiles of conventional weapons and munitions in South East Europe. RASR's ultimate goal is to contribute to regional security by working to prevent disastrous explosions and destabilizing diversions of stockpiled conventional weapons and ammunition.

The 8th RASR workshop will focus on discussions related to issues concerning weapons and ammunition stockpiles in RASR countries with the central topic: “**Review of progress made and persisting PSSM challenges**”. The Steering Committee Members have agreed to pursue three short presentations: (i) International Ammunition Technical Guidelines - IATG (to be presented by UNODA); (ii) a case study on a joint Albania/Montenegro ammo transport/demilitarization pilot project; (iii) a presentation by Moldova as “Observer” regarding its PSSM and demilitarization efforts. In addition, there will be an opportunity for each nation to update the group on progress made.

Nominated government representatives will give a brief presentation (15 minutes maximum) focusing on their country's **review of progress made and persisting PSSM challenges**, in accordance with the following presentation outline:

1. Introduction: Status and figures concerning the remaining surplus weapons and ammunition stockpiles (5 minutes maximum).
2. Main body of the presentation will touch upon one (or several) of the following issues:
  - PSSM progress and challenges;
  - Domestic experience, capacities and gaps; foreign-supported projects
  - Evaluation of "cross border" approaches; and/or
  - Issues in terms of advancing within the existing regional and international initiatives

The workshop presentations and discussions will be in English. Simultaneous translation will be provided to BCMS.



