



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
STATEMENT ON CLEARANCE AND RISK REDUCTION
02 Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,
Beirut, 12-16.09.2011

Madam President,

The provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force for Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2011. In fulfilling our obligations under Article 4, para 1, we had to identify all areas contaminated by cluster munitions, make an assessment of the size and nature of the threat, prioritize areas for clearance and develop a national plan for solving the issue of contamination in the country.

In cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid, we have decided to implement those provisions through general survey of cluster contaminated areas. Therefore, in the period between 1 January and 30 June 2011, NPA implemented the first phase of a general survey of areas suspected to be contaminated with cluster munition remnants in Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulting in an overall assessment of the situation regarding unexploded submunitions, namely: (1) assessment of the hazard from cluster munition remnants, and (2) their social, economic, and environmental impact in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The general assessment is the foundation for strategic planning and a baseline for measuring the success of implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The size of the areas suspected of containing cluster munition remnants and overlapping with previously defined suspected mined areas cover 3.79 km². The suspected area was identified in 79 local communities across 39 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These communities have a total of 226,668 residents. According to current estimates, 13,020 people are exposed to risk from cluster munition remnants on a daily basis.

The analysis of risk for the population, the consequences of accidents, and the blockage of resources show that there is a significant impact from cluster munition remnants on the society, economy, and environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A total of 123 strike areas were recorded, which had been hit by a total of 127 bombs carrying cluster munitions. To this a further 16 sites contaminated with cluster munitions fired from light weapons must be added. The estimated total number of unexploded submunitions remaining across these areas is 3,774. Based on the areas identified, 669 polygons have been made of suspected areas totalling some 12.179km². It is estimated that 26.52% or 3.23 km² of the suspected areas represent high-risk hazard. It can be assumed that a significant part of the areas defined as moderate-risk hazard, and especially low-risk hazard, will be cancelled during the second and third phases of the general survey during which more detailed data collection and assessment in the suspected hazardous areas will be carried out.

Identification of areas suspected to contain cluster munition remnants was the first phase of the general survey. It represented the basis for a general assessment of the situation at the national level. In the subsequent phases of the general survey, detailed measuring and collecting of additional information from strike sites will be carried out and the risk for the local communities as well as the social and economic impact of the cluster munition remnants will be assessed.

I thank you, Madam President.