



STATEMENT

Of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

1st Review Conference of the State Parties to the CCM

Dubrovnik, 7-11 September 2015

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Mr. President, Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligned itself with the general statement of European Union that will be delivered later today. I deliver this statement on behalf of delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to join those commending Costa Rica on successful presidency over the last year, and to congratulate Croatia on the exceptionally good organization of the First Review Conference. I would also like to welcome the new state parties and observers: Belize, Canada, Iceland, Paraguay, Rwanda, Slovakia, South Africa and State of Palestine who ratified the convention since our last meeting in San Jose. Allow me to express our warm welcome Ms. Sheila Mweemba, the new Director of the Implementation Support Unit and to wish her every success at her new job. My country is extremely pleased that the new ISU is up and running. However, we are not pleased that its formation represents a sort of *fait accompli*, or if you wish “putting the carriage before the horse”, since we still have to find the solution acceptable to all state parties for its long term financing.

Last, but not least, our thanks go to Sara Sekkenes and her team from the UNDP for their extremely dedicated work as the interim ISU over the past five years.

It is with great concern that we received the news on recent confirmed use of cluster munition in Syria and Ukraine and alleged use in Libya, Yemen and Sudan. We have worked very hard to raise the awareness of the International Community of the need to ban such a horrible and indiscriminate killing device, and we should not allow those efforts to be undermined.

As to the universalisation of the Convention, we note with pleasure that the incoming Presidency comes from our region, that we had excellent regional cooperation in the past, and we stand ready to assist the President, as well as the thematic coordinators for universalisation, in their efforts to convince the remaining countries of the region to become State Parties to the Convention.

Mr. President,

As one of the affected countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified Convention on Cluster Munition in June 2010. Right after the ratification, the State authorities took action to adopt the national strategy and task the relevant actors in risk reduction, survey and clearance of the contaminated areas. The State Commission for Demining, which was already up and running due to the obligations stemming from the APLC, was given the role of the main coordinator of the clearance process, and BIHMAC was tasked with the clearance action. With the help of Norwegian People's Aid, through the technical survey the suspected hazardous area was estimated at 14.61 km², out of which, after technical and non-technical survey, about 5 km² are actually deemed as contaminated and marked for clearance. Since the beginning of the clearance process, the annual rate of clearance was more than 1 km², depending on the weather conditions and available funds.

During the period between 2012-2015 BiH released 6.92 km² of the hazardous area. Of that, approximately half, or 3.65 m² was released through technical method (clearance and technical survey) with total of 44 implemented tasks. In operational activities, 1.406 pieces of CBU and 53 pieces of ERW were found and destroyed. At this moment, the suspected hazardous area is standing at 7.69 km². With this said, we can state as a fact that the clearance activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are going as planned, and we expect to complete the process in the year 2017.

According to the BIHMAC database, the last casualty from the cluster munition occurred in 2009, a year before the ratification of the Convention, and there has not be any incidents since. Before that, between 1992 and 2009, there has been 231 victim of cluster munition. The survivors are included in the database kept at the Department for Registration of Victims at the BiH Mine Action Centre (BIHMAC) and they share the same treatment with the other victims of explosive devices. It is important to point out that the process of completing the Register of the victims is ongoing, and the data gathered so far is incomplete, containing mainly basic whereabouts of the victims. The data on social profile of the victims and of the assistance received in the past is still missing, therefore this database can hardly be used for the planning and analytical purposes. The Council for Persons with Disabilities (PWD), as a national mechanism for the coordination of disability issues, was established in 2010. It does not include the landmine and ERW survivors' organizations, but it includes the representatives of War Veteran Associations and Civilian Victims of the War. It has its regular meetings of the Working Group in order to discuss all the relevant issues pertaining to

the legal framework, programs and problems related to the VA. Since the achieved results have been declared insufficient, this body, in cooperation with NGO's representing victims, has completed the revision of the National Sub-strategy for VA for the period 2014-2019. The revised Sub-strategy has significantly improved the general approach to the problem of VA, proposed activities and programs that affect the victims of mines in particular, but also the persons with disabilities in general, in view of the obligations stemming from the CRPD.

During the last year, Bosnia and Herzegovina destroyed all 341 bomblets, all without fuses, marked for destruction. As we stated in our latest report, this marked the completion of stockpile destruction as per Article 3 Paragraph 2 of the Convention.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to reiterate our firm commitment to follow the Dubrovnik Action Plan to its last detail, and to continue fulfilling our obligations stemming from the Convention in order to be able to soon declare our country free of cluster munition.

Thank you for your attention.