



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement on behalf of
the Analysis Group for Article 4 Extension Requests
(Afghanistan, Montenegro, Sweden and the Netherlands)
at
Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions,
agenda item 6, organization of work**

25 November 2020

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr President,

Thank you for giving me the floor, I have the honour to present on behalf of the Analysis Group for Article 4 extension requests the report on the extension request by Bosnia and Herzegovina. As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor on behalf of the Group, allow me to take this opportunity to briefly introduce the Analysis Group for article 4, which is made up out the Co-coordinators for Clearance and risk reduction education – Sweden and Afghanistan – and the Co-Coordiators for International Cooperation and Assistance – the Netherlands and Montenegro -. Allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of the Analysis Group to also thank the Implementation Support Unit, as well as the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the International Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Cluster Munition Coalition for the invaluable support, technical and legal expertise to the Group.

Mr President,

The report of the Analysis Group is contained in document CCM/CONF/2020/15, dated 12 October 2020. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 3 December 2008, ratified on 7 September 2010 and the Convention entered into force on 1 March 2011. Under Article 4 of the Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina is obligated to clear and destroy, or ensure the clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants located in cluster munition contaminated areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2021.

On 27 August 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of its intention to submit an extension request. It submitted its zero draft extension request to the CCM Implementation Support Unit (ISU) on 10 September 2020 for the ISU to make an initial assessment to ensure the request did not lack any critical components. On 22 September 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted an official request for an 18-month extension of its Article 4 deadline up to 1 September 2022.

In line with the Methodology for Extension requests adopted at the 9th MSP, the Analysis Group engaged with the requesting State Party to clarify outstanding issues. On 5 October 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted an updated extension request that took into account the comments and observations made by the Analysis Group. Additionally, on 6 October 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a detailed response to the questions posed by the Analysis Group. The documents have both been made available on the Convention's website.

Allow me to note here the very short time frame in which the Analysis Group, with the excellent support by the Implementation Support Unit, considered the extension request by Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Analysis Group wishes to stress the importance of respecting

the agreed time-frame for extension requests, to ensure due process and high-quality extension requests.

Mr President,

Turning to the conclusions of the Analysis Group, the Group notes with appreciation the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina in allocating public funds toward clearance of cluster munition contaminated areas. Furthermore, we welcome that Bosnia and Herzegovina has reported to have secured the necessary national and international funding to implement the work plan. Moreover, the work plan presented by Bosnia and Herzegovina appears to be realistic, workable and can be monitored. The Analysis Group notes with appreciation that the projected clearance duration is realistic and ensures that the requested extension period of 18-months does not exceed the time strictly necessary for Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with its article 4 obligations.

The Analysis Group also takes notes of the mixed contamination by depleted uranium and cluster munitions in the municipality of Han Pijesak, along with other factors such as adverse climate conditions. Furthermore, the Analysis Group notes that a total of 3.6 km² had been separated out and identified as area contaminated with non-conventional/improvised weapons which do not fall under the scope of the CCM.

Therefore, the Analysis Groups recommends to grant the request for an extension of 18 months until 1 September 2022 to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In doing so, Analysis Group notes that the Convention would benefit from Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting annually through its Article 7 reports and at the Tenth Meeting of States Parties the following:

- a) Progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the work plan provided in its extension request;
- b) Resource mobilization efforts including external financing received, and resources made available by Bosnia and Herzegovina to support implementation efforts;
- c) Information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in overcoming the challenges posed by co-contamination of depleted uranium and cluster munitions before the end of the extension period;
- d) Other relevant information.

The Analysis Group notes the importance, in addition to Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments as necessary.

Thank you Mr President.