



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GENERAL STATEMENT

02 Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Beirut, 12-16 September 2011

Madame President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Esteemed colleagues,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election to this post and to assure you of our delegation's full support. Allow me to convey a message from our MFA, H.E. Sven Alkalaj, who unfortunately could not be with us today due to other previously accepted obligations. It is a great pleasure and privilege to be here in Beirut today on the 02 MSP of a disarmament convention with a true humanitarian value joining a group of nations that witnessed and experienced the danger of cluster munitions, and in that context, my country is pleased to be participating as a state party in its full capacity as the provisions of the Convention have entered into force for us in March of this year.

Allow me to thank you for the outstanding organization of this event and I believe I am not alone when I say that here in Beirut, we have had a chance to fully experience the traditional Lebanese hospitality.

Madame President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches great importance and value to the CCM and in particular to the issues which are of primary concern to us, such as Victim Assistance, Clearance and Stockpile Destruction. We believe that it was of particular importance for us to become a state party as we were a former producer country, but have come to understand and realize the unacceptable humanitarian harm CM cause. B-H is polluted with CM remnants and consequently and unfortunately, we have a significant number of victims/survivors. We will provide a more detailed information on these issues during forthcoming thematic sessions.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that in fulfilling our obligations and keeping in line with our commitments under VAP, we have included for the first time a survivor as part of the official delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We are honored to have been nominated to serve as the Friend of the President on Victim Assistance, together with Austria, as in our view it reaffirms and reiterates the great importance we attach to this very issue, as well as highlights the progress we have achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina in this area over time.

Finally, I would like to express my pleasure at the number of the countries that have signed and ratified the CCM so far, as well as to express my hope that this number will increase in time. We look forward to a fruitful and successful meeting ahead of us this week! The past should teach us what we should do, and therefore today's event is a proof of a lesson well learnt by some and hopefully much more in the coming years.

I thank you.