

Bosnia &  
Herzegovina

THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITION

Oslo, 11-14 September 2012

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to address you on behalf of the Demining Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Before going any further, let me thank our Norwegian host for organizing 3rd MSPat the same place in Oslo where four years ago in 2008 the CCM Signing Conference was held.

This will be great opportunity for State Parties to present progress achieved and also **to discuss how to improve and enhance further implementation** of the Convention.

For us, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, country that is directly affected with cluster munitions, the **CCM has strong preventive role for protection of civilians** but also has **great global importance for strengthening International Humanitarian Law**.

Mr. President,

At the beginning, I am proud to underline that the story of Bosnia and Herzegovina efforts to comply with the requirements of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is **sucessfull one** and proves that **we can be positive example to other countries**.

Therefore, for us one crucial point is very clear: the Convention does not exist merely to be implemented for the sake of implementation but for the sake and well-being of those people and communities affected by cluster munitions remnants and to improve the quality of their lives. The destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions, together with the clearance of areas contaminated by cluster munitions, saves countless human lives. The Convention highlights those people in need, who are victims of cluster munitions, and urges for the provision of life-long support both to them and to their families. This is the real power of the Convention and what Bosnia and Herzegovina has committed itself to with positive results, which now we can proudly present to others.

Let me remind you that we have fulfilled **all obligations related to Article 3 of the CCM** by destroying all known and reported stocks of cluster munitions in 2011. In achieving this goal we had help from the UNDP and received funding support from the EU and I would like again **to express our gratitude** for that.

Although the CCM allows a period of eight years for each State Party to implement its obligations under the Convention (Article 3), through its



partnership modality with the UN System, we have **destroyed over 500 pieces of cluster munitions** and over **100.000 pieces of associated sub-munitions** within 10 months from the date when the Convention came into force in our country.

Mr. President,

The **total suspected area** polluted by cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina is **12,2 km<sup>2</sup>**. The International NGO Norwegian People's Aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina (NPA) began the first phase of the General Survey aimed at identifying those areas suspected of being contaminated by unexploded sub-munitions on 1 January 2011 and has completed it by 30 June 2011. The NPA Survey was the first comprehensive study to assess the hazard posed by cluster munition remnants. The total **suspected area** contaminated by cluster munitions remnants amounts to **12.179 km<sup>2</sup>**, of which **5.388 km<sup>2</sup>** are assessed as being at **low-risk hazard**, **3.562 km<sup>2</sup>** at **moderate-risk hazard** and **3.23 km<sup>2</sup>** at **high-risk hazard**. The suspect areas identified are located in **79 local communities** across **39 municipalities** and **13.020 residents** are exposed to risk on a daily basis.

One of the most difficult challenges facing Bosnia and Herzegovina is the presence of **both cluster munition remnants and landmines within the same contaminated area**. It is roughly estimated that **5 to 6 km<sup>2</sup>** of Bosnia and Herzegovina territory is contaminated by both cluster munition remnants and landmines.

We are expecting that clearance of cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina **should be finished in period of 3 to 5 years**. This will highly depend on the clearing of minefields, because as I have mentioned about half of the cluster munitions contaminated areas overlap with areas contaminated by landmines. Those minefields have to be cleared in order to conduct clearance process of cluster munitions or these two operations might be done together, but anyway it will require more time, resources and funds. From March 2012 to September 2012 the NPA has opened 7 tasks for clearance and technical survey of cluster munitions in total of 495.000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Demining Commission, together with BH Mine Action Center (BHMACH) has also started with developing **Standards and Standard Operational Procedures for cluster munitions survey and clearance**, as well as creating conditions for accreditation of all interested companies who want to engage on cluster munitions removal in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We expect accreditation of 5 to 7 government, non-government and commercial companies during this year.

Moreover, BHMACH and NPA have successfully **organized course** for operators for cluster munitions for 24 people. That process of education will be continued.

As a part of mine risk education activities, besides mines and UXO, emphasis was also on cluster munitions which were treated through



UXO risk education before we have ratified Convention. In the future we will continue with activities of risk education.

Last year we have also started with **marking areas** contaminated by cluster munitions, **with different signs and marks**, where 42 marking signs were placed.

Also, I would like to inform you that Bosnia and Herzegovina has started to develop **new database only for cluster munitions**. This database is very similar with database we have for mine action and landmines, and all characteristics of cluster munitions and its clearance will be integrated in this new one. This data base will also include data on cluster munitions victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In my conclusion, I am proud to present you here **Study on Convention on Cluster Munitions – case of Bosnia and Herzegovina** that is result of the close cooperation of the UNDP Office in B&H, our national authorities and NGOs.

Also, I would like also to inform you that the **new Demining Law** is under the parliamentary procedure and its new text is fully complementary with the Convention on Cluster Munitions.