

**BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA**  
Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova



**БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА**  
Министарство иностраних послова

## *STATEMENT*

*Of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Clearance and Risk  
Reduction*

*5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Parties to the CCM*

*San Jose, Costa Rica, 2-6 September 2014*

Mr. President, Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to join those congratulating Costa Rica on assuming the Presidency, and on the exceptionally good organization of the Conference.

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 14.3 km<sup>2</sup>, out of which, after technical and non-technical survey, 3-4 km<sup>2</sup> are actually deemed as contaminated and marked for clearance. Since the beginning of the clearance process, the annual rate of clearance was between 0,8 and 1 km<sup>2</sup>, depending on the weather conditions and available funds. Last year alone, through technical and non-technical methods, the area of 4,1 km<sup>2</sup> was released and the clearance was completed in the municipalities of Livno, Jajce, Čitluk and Krupa na Uni. Twelve tasks involving the area of 718.375 m<sup>2</sup> are currently in progress. For the year 2014, sixteen tasks have been planned, covering the total area of 605.170 m<sup>2</sup>. For the first 6 months of this year, 88 signs were posted as emergency marking of the contaminated areas. Since the beginning of the operations, 30 tasks were completed, the area of 1.889.375 m<sup>2</sup> was cleared, and 280 pieces of ordinances were found and destroyed.

At this moment, the suspected hazardous area is standing at 10.26 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 2016.

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.

As most of you know, in May this year Bosnia and Herzegovina has suffered a natural catastrophe of biblical proportions: one third of the Country was flooded, almost a million people were affected, 100.000 homes were destroyed, 230 schools and hospitals, two dozen people lost their lives. 70% of the flooded land was in the mine suspected areas, 560 landslides were recorded causing the phenomenon of "floating minefields". Since then, there has been incidents involving ERW, mainly anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, fortunately without casualties. It is reasonable to expect further incidents in the future, some of which may involve the cluster munition. There are teams in the field, both local and international, establishing the risk of such incidents and mapping up newly emerged hazardous areas, but the first estimates do not indicate that the total hazardous area with cluster bomblets will be significantly increased.

At the end of last year, Bosnia and Herzegovina was in possession of 340 bomblets, all without fuses, marked for destruction. In addition to that, there are 20 pieces of cluster munition of the type KB1 kept for training purposes, at the polygon of Norwegian Peoples Aid.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to convey the gratitude of my Country to the UNDP, as the interim ISU, for all the hard work they invested in support to the State Parties to the CCM. It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we look forward to the establishment of the permanent ISU in Geneva, headed by newly appointed Director. Naturally, we expect the affected countries to be duly represented at the ISU.

Thank you for your attention.