



7th Meeting of CCM States Parties
September 04-06, 2017
Geneva

STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

As this is the first time that we are taking the floor, we would like to start off by congratulating Amb. Biontino on his election and by expressing our sincere appreciation to the German Chairmanship and the CCM ISU for an excellently prepared Meeting of States Parties.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is actively engaged in the CCM and its implementation, and we welcome the nominations of new coordinators and wish them success in their work. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the Dubrovnik Action Plan, and we welcome the updated progress report. We look forward to its further implementation, benefitting all States Parties, in particular in the area of clearance and victim assistance, which are of major importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We would like to thank the coordinators, our colleagues from the Netherlands and Norway, for a comprehensive report. Allow me provide you with a brief update on our efforts in clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Current cluster munition suspect hazardous area in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 7.26 km². It is estimated that more than 2.000 pieces of cluster ammunition remain – present in some 35 cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Micro-locations contaminated with cluster munition influence the lives of approximately 55.000 citizens. There are 232 cluster ammunition victims registered so far, last of them registered in 2016.

From 2012 to 2016, 50% of the hazardous area suspect of cluster ammunition has been eliminated through the operations of non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance of remnants of cluster ammunition. Technical survey and clearance completed 50 tasks, with reduced and cleared area of 4 km². 1.510 pieces of cluster munition have been found and destroyed, along with 86 pieces of unexploded ordnance.

In 2017, technical survey and cluster munition clearance have commenced on 12 tasks, and up to this moment, 856 thousand square meters were reduced and cleared, with 471 pieces of cluster ammunition found and destroyed.

At the end of 2016, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) formed 4 expert groups to work on the amendments and additions to all the chapters of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Standard and Standard Operating Procedures for humanitarian demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We expect amendments and additions to the Chapter XVI of the Standard, related to Clearance and Technical Survey of Area Contaminated with Non-Exploded Cluster Ammunition, and SOPs for survey of the locations contaminated with cluster ammunition. Completion is expected in the last quarter of 2017. As for the working methods and changes, technical survey and cluster ammunition clearance will be conducted with the use of special dogs, now used in Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the kind support of the Norwegian People's Aid.

BHMAC conducts mine risk education/mine awareness due to the hazard presented by cluster ammunition, through non-technical survey, while accredited organizations conduct their own separate projects.

Cluster ammunition victims actualize their rights in accordance with the regulations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and equal to all other persons with disabilities.

In accordance with the Draft of Strategy in Mine Action 2018 - 2025, prepared by BHMAC in cooperation with GICHD, Bosnia and Herzegovina will fulfil its CCM Article 4 obligations to clear and destroy or ensure the clearance and destruction of, all cluster munition remnants by March 2021.

Thank you for your attention.