



Statement of Montenegro
on clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants
and risk reduction education
Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Geneva, 3 – 5 September 2018

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of Montenegro I would like to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Hernán Estrada Román on his election and commend his and his team's work in the preparation of this meeting. They can count on our full support and cooperation during this meeting. We would also like to congratulate the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) on its excellent work.

Please allow me to provide you with the updates regarding Montenegro's implementation of the Article 4 of CCM.

Currently the cluster munitions remnants contamination in Montenegro stands at 1.715 km² with contaminated area stretching through three municipalities (Golubovci, Rožaje and Tuzi). Off this area, 29.98% is declared as agricultural land, 6.26% as forest area, 0.62% rivers and canals, and 63.14% infrastructure and utility facilities which also include the area around national airport in Podgorica.

From 1999 until 2018 we have recorded 21 cluster munitions-related incidents causing 9 casualties (2–light injuries; 5–severe injuries; 2 persons killed). They occurred during the bombing raids, and after that they were caused by unexploded submunitions on the ground.

The non-technical survey conducted in February and March 2013 estimated the number of affected population in the contaminated zones. The report shows that 5.827 citizens are affected (such as local population, hunters, fishermen, alpinists, tourists and others) while 1.665 citizens are directly endangered. Domestic population is informed about and aware of the threat of cluster munition but the contaminated areas are not marked yet.

I would like to inform you that in July 2018 the Ministry of Interior signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Norwegian People's Aid on the Implementation of the Programme - Land Release of Areas Contaminated with Cluster Ammunition Remnants in Montenegro. We express our gratitude to the Norwegian People's Aid which will provide financial means in the amount of around 1.2 million euros for clearance operations of all cluster munition contaminated area in Montenegro. The programme started last month and will last for 2 years. With the assurances of our donor, we are positive that **Montenegro will fulfill Article 4 obligations before deadline set for 1 August 2020.** By completing this project Montenegro will meet another commitment under CCM, taking into account that we have fulfilled our obligations arising from Article 3 in 2010, just 2 months after the entry into force of CCM for Montenegro.

In the end, we would like to express our support for the Dubrovnik Action Plan, as a valuable guideline for further implementation of the CCM. We emphasize that investing in or financing prohibited weapons production undermines the international legal framework that governs their ban. Therefore Montenegro understands that any investment in producers of cluster munitions is a contravention of Article 1 (1) c of the CCM.

Thank you for your attention.