

## Comments on Extension Request by Bosnia and Herzegovina

CCM Intersessional Meeting, Geneva, 16-17 May 2022

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Bosnia and Herzegovina's current deadline under Art. 4 is 1 September this year. Until recently BiH had provided assurance that it would be able to clear its small area of cluster munition contamination by its deadline.

The Cluster Munition Coalition is extremely disappointed to hear this is not possible anymore.

We thank BiH for providing an update on their progress and challenges today.

However, we are further seriously concerned that to date BiH has failed to submit a draft request for extension of its current deadline. A formal request for deadline extension is indispensable for facilitating compliance under the convention's Art. 4 and is required nine months prior to the Meeting of States Parties.

We call on BiH to submit its extension request without delay, in line with its obligations as a State Party, and as per the commitments in Action#20 of the Lausanne Action Plan to ensure the requests are *"substantiated, ambitious and clear, contain detailed, costed annual work plans for the extension period, that include appropriate provisions for Risk Education."*

And we truly hope this will be BiH's very last extension requested under this convention, despite identification of new contaminated areas.

At this point, we would also like to take the opportunity to appeal to Bosnia's national authorities to take full advantage of the opportunity provided by the country coalition, and to actively drive this process, together with supportive donors and partners, to achieve the aim of becoming cluster munition-free without delay.

In closing, we wish to remind that intersessional meetings under this convention provide a unique informal opportunity for public exchange on extension requests before their final approval later in the year at meeting of states parties. This is yet another reason why it is crucial draft requests are submitted on time and in advance of the intersessional meetings.