



**Intersessional Meeting of CCM States Parties
16 to 17 May, Geneva 2022**

**STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
DELEGATION**

Mr President, your excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Bosnia and Herzegovina's contamination with cluster munitions, landmines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) occurred during the War between 1992 and 1995. Since 2011, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center (BHMIC) had partnered with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to conduct a non-technical survey (NTS) to determine the scope of cluster munition contamination in the country.

Preliminary survey results in 2011 revealed that a total of 12.17 km² covering 140 locations were contaminated with cluster munitions. During the period 2012 to 2019, an additional 2.43 km² in 35 other locations, were also found to be contaminated, which made the total cluster munition contaminated area in Bosnia and Herzegovina amount to 14.61 km².

Clearance of cluster munition remnants and land release began in 2012. Between 2012 and 2021, a total of 10.51 km² of land had been cleared or released through technical survey (TS) or non-technical survey (NTS) and 5,935 cluster munitions destroyed. Furthermore, a total of 3.6 km² had been separated out and identified as area contaminated with non-conventional/improvised weapons, which do not fall under the scope of the CCM as was clarified by the CCM Coordinators for Clearance and Risk Reduction Education.

0,60 km² of cluster munition contaminated land remained to be addressed, which would require Bosnia and Herzegovina convertible mark (BAM) 1,2 million (approximately EUR 0,6 million).

Bosnia and Herzegovina had previously aimed to complete the clearance of cluster munition contaminated areas and destruction of cluster munition remnants by its first deadline of 1 March 2021.

Based on this clearance rate and human resource capacity, Bosnia and Herzegovina expects clearance to be completed 1 September 2022 (first extension) scoping all known contaminated areas that were included into our country extension request.

A particular problem is in the municipality of Han Pijesak, where depleted uranium (DU) contamination exists along with cluster munition remnants. This specific task is currently in the process of implementation by NGO NPA and it is expected to be finished by August 2022.

Bosnia and Herzegovina intends to continue clearance and cluster munition remnant destruction through its governmental bodies represented by the BiH Armed Forces and Civil Protection Units (Federal Administration of Civil Protection and Civil Protection of Republic of Srpska) in cooperation with NPA.

NGO NPA is Bosnia and Herzegovina leading partner assigned with actions of cluster munitions removal, while a small part of the work is done by governmental organizations. Cooperation and coordination between governmental organizations and NPA as the key actors in this process hold monthly meetings under the patronage of the BiH Mine Action Center to report on progress in cluster munition removal and planning further activities. In addition to holding these meetings, NPA and governmental organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

In the spring of 2022, BHMAL identified 6 new locations that are currently being processed as part of non-technical survey operations, conducted in cooperation with NPA teams. In accordance with the results we get, implementation plans will be made for the implementation of technical survey and clearance operations.

European Union Forces in BiH, are continuously providing support and advising in the process of meeting CCM deadlines.

Due to the fact, that the tasks we anticipated will be done by August 2022 and the fact that we have new areas that were found to be contaminated with cluster munitions, Bosnia and Herzegovina will request an extension of the deadline under the CCM Convention for additional 12 months, ie until September 1, 2023. We expect that the extension request will be completed by the end of May 2022, when we will submit it to the further procedures.

Thank you for your attention.

