



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentleman,

Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions on September 7, 2010, which confirms the willingness our country to do whatever is necessary to, among other duties, provide support to people who were injured by cluster munitions, as well as their families and communities.

Unfortunately, we do have people injured/killed from cluster munitions, the numbers are not as high as those of mine victims, however they are pretty appalling. The data which I am about to share is preliminary, as we are still doing check-up on the ground. For the period from 1992-2011, we have registered 225 cluster munition victims, out of which 181 are injured and 44 are killed from CM.

There were lot of activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the past period implemented by government and NGO sectors with the aim to improve socio-economic status of victims.

Approach to disability issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent years has been extensively coordinated with the approaches accepted in the European Union. Last year was marked by progress made on improving legal framework concerning the status of survivors and other people with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In October 2010 the Council of Ministers has made a decision to establish Council of persons with disabilities in BiH. On the basis of this document, Strategy for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was adopted that complies with the European Action Plan for people with disabilities. This document contains directions and principles of actions based on human rights in all major life aspects of persons with disabilities. All relevant state and entity institutions, as well as cantonal and municipal authorities, and persons with disabilities organizations have worked together in preparation of this document with the support of NGO sector.

Both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked on amending and adoption of the new legal regulations in order to improve social status and rights of victims. It is important to note that in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina the Law on professional rehabilitation, training and employment of persons with disabilities has been adopted. There are current activities on establishment of the Federal Fund for professional rehabilitation which is a new legal framework

for persons with disabilities, including victims. This law opens new opportunities for economic and social integration of persons with disabilities, including survivors. Fund for professional rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons in Republika Srpska became functional in 2004. In the past year 201 persons were supported through this fund, while the plan for 2011 is to employ about 220 disabled persons.

Bosnia and Herzegovina allocates funds annually to support employment of persons with disabilities. In Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the budget for 2010 approximately 1 million KM/500,000 euros have been allocated for that purpose, and nearly 25 million KM/12.5 million euros were allocated for the rights of civilian war victims, as well as victims.

Ministries of Health have been working on drafting legal acts and sub-acts as well as their implementation. Through the adoption of the basic legal regulations, measures were taken to equalize the basic health rights of all Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens regardless of insurance status. They have worked on the supply of modern equipment for hospitals through loan arrangements according to possibilities. They have also implemented a joint project with the NGOs on education of medical staff in 60 CBR centers in BiH, in order to provide better services for mine and cluster munition victims and other users.

We managed to establish relatively high standards of medical care and rehabilitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the future we will strive to continue providing quality services as well as further improving their quality.

At the end of my statement allow me to mention exceptional coordination and cooperation that we have with the NGO sector who, through their work and efforts, have realized a number of projects all aimed at improving the socio-economic status as well as resocialization of victims and persons with disabilities.

I thank you for your attention!