



Statement of Montenegro

Ninth Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Geneva, 2- 4 September 2019

-Agenda item 9 (C) - Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants and risk reduction

Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you on your election and to commend your and your team's work in the preparation of this meeting. We would also like to thank the Coordination Committee and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their excellent work.

Montenegro is firmly committed to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We believe that it is essential in our collective efforts to eliminate the use of weapons that cause inhuman suffering of civilians and combatants.

Mr. President,

Montenegro is committed to clearing its territory contaminated with cluster munitions by 1 August 2020. The initial non-technical survey results indicated 1.75 km² of suspected area, but after additional survey activities, we determined that the contaminated area was 1.85 km². In October last year, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, we launched a project to clear the contaminated areas.

As a result of excellent cooperation with the Kingdom of Norway, carried out through the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), we have achieved a result which we are proud on and we are pleased to share it with you. Namely, in the previous period, 63.13% of the territory contaminated with cluster munitions has been cleared. Forty-seven pieces of cluster ammunition were found and destroyed, thus implying that an equivalent number of potential accidents was prevented. Montenegro's obligations in this project with the NPA are to carry out quality control, destroy the found cluster munitions, as well as to provide administrative assistance.

We are in continuous communication and have excellent cooperation with the NPA, and after conducting the necessary analyses, we are pleased to inform that Montenegro will clear the surface contaminated with cluster munitions before the given deadline. By completing this activity, all obligations that we undertook by becoming the State Party of the Convention on the Cluster Munitions will be fulfilled.

However, Mr. President,

Our engagement and commitment to implementing the provisions of the Convention will not cease- on the contrary- we are fully aware of our obligations regarding victim assistance activities, transportation bans, production, and other related issues. Furthermore, we stand ready to selflessly share our experiences and to offer our help, in accordance with our capacities, and we are determined to continue to promote the values that the Convention stipulates.

In the end, we would like once again to express our gratitude to the Norwegian People's Aid on their immense contribution to our efforts in making our territory cluster munitions free.

I thank you.