

Observations and Comments of the CCM Article 4 Analysis Group on the Extension Request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with Article 4.5 of the Convention

The Analysis Group notes with regret the late submission of the Article 4 deadline extension request by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 28 September 2020, less than two months before the Second Review Conference (2RC). Article 4.6 of the Convention stipulates that *“A request for an extension shall be submitted to a Meeting of States Parties or a Review Conference prior to the expiry of the time period referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article for that State Party. Each request shall be submitted a minimum of nine months prior to the Meeting of States Parties or Review Conference at which it is to be considered.”*

However, the Analysis Group acknowledges the efforts made by BiH to ensure completion by its initial deadline of 1 March 2021 which until the submission of the request was reported as being on track to meet this deadline.

The Analysis Group also observed that there are a number of key elements which require further elaboration by the requesting State. In particular, the Analysis Group notes with concern the absence of a complete work plan - in particular that of the BiH Armed Forces and Civil Protection Units - and information on BiH's resource mobilization plan, making it difficult to justify the time needed by Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfil its Article 4 obligations. In the absence of a detailed work plan, the Analysis Group will not be in a position to positively recommend the requested 18 month extension period to the Second Review Conference where the extension request will be considered.

Therefore, the Analysis Group requests additional information or further clarification from Bosnia and Herzegovina by **Monday, 5 October 2020**, on the following elements:-

1. The inclusion of a complete detailed **work plan** which would include:
 - (a) clear information on clearance operation: who (BiH Armed Forces, Civil Protection agencies, and Norwegian People's Aid), when, where and how clearance/land release will be carried out to allow for easy monitoring over the requested extension period;
 - (b) the rationale and criteria for clearance priorities during the period;
 - (c) clear plans for TS and NTS during the extension period;

Taking into account that the extension request will be considered at the Second Review Conference, which forms an important milestone for the CCM, preserving the established practice of evidence-based work plans that underpin the extension requests remains an important consideration for all States Parties to the Convention. By including a detailed work plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be setting a necessary and positive example that will strengthen the CCM going forward.

2. The request would benefit from information on coordination mechanisms between key actors of cluster munitions disposal operators in the country (BiH Armed Forces, Federal Administration of Civil Protection, Civil Protection of Republika Srpska, and Norwegian People's Aid).

3. The Group noted the **need for consistency** in the presentation of figures throughout the Request, specifically, the total remaining cluster munition contaminated area. Page 5 of the request indicates that the total cluster munition contaminated areas is 14.61 km², the area that has been addressed 8.81 km² and the area classified as contaminated with non-conventional/improvised devices 3.6 km². This would leave 2.2 km² left to be addressed. On pages 9 and 11, the request specifies that the current cluster munition contaminated area is 2.137 km² whilst Table 3 on page 11 shows that to be 1.95 km².
4. On page 5, the request indicates that “During non-technical survey operations, Mine Action Centre BiH teams cooperated with NPA teams, which resulted in separation of areas contaminated with non-conventional devices, i.e. areas contaminated with improvised items. Such areas will be treated as clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO). The total size of those areas is 3.6 km².” Kindly provide more clarification on the following:
 - (a) Do these areas that have been reclassified as having unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination contain cluster munition remnants such as those found in the remaining area to be addressed (2.14 km²)? The request would benefit from having the names of areas that have been reclassified.
 - (b) Is the area separated from recorded cluster munition contaminated areas contaminated with unmodified KB-1 and/or KB-2 DPICM scattered individually as single submunitions (which fall under the Convention) or with locally manufactured M93 rifle grenades with modified KB-1 and KB-2 cluster submunitions (which are not covered by the Convention)?
5. The request would benefit from the provision of additional information on Bosnia and Herzegovina’s **resource mobilization plan**, in particular:
 - (a) How much of the required funds will be provided by the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and how much would be provided by donors?
 - (b) Can Bosnia and Herzegovina provide an insight as to how much of the BAM 4.5 Million has been secured and the prospective donors for the extension period?
 - (c) Would the current available resources be deemed enough to complete the work in the time stated, or does Bosnia and Herzegovina need to contract another organization to complete clearance operations? Does Bosnia and Herzegovina envisage any possible delays to the process?
 - (d) Is there a contingency plan in place in case of lack of sufficient resources?
6. Of the 2,779 cluster munitions cleared and destroyed, kindly provide information what types of cluster munitions they were.
7. With regard to the areas with co-contamination of depleted uranium and cluster munitions, how is Bosnia and Herzegovina planning to deal with this particular problem? How are operators clearing cluster munition remnants in those areas protected? Does Bosnia and Herzegovina require international assistance to address this issue?
8. On page 7, the request indicates that risk education is continuously conducted amongst affected population groups and that markings are placed to warn the population of cluster munitions. Kindly provide more information on who is most at risk from the dangers presented by cluster munition contamination. The request would benefit from elaborating more on any specific target groups Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to reach, particularly during clearance operations.