

CMC Comments on Extension Request by Bosnia and Herzegovina

CCM 2RC, 25-27 November 2020



Thank you Mr. President,

We thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for its extension request and additional clarifications. We very much regret that Bosnia will not meet its initial deadline and needs to ask for an additional 18 months. We hope that this will be the last extension request Bosnia requires.

Apart from one or two states with heavy contamination by cluster munitions (Lao and Iraq), we had expected that all other States Parties with art. 4 obligations, including BiH should have been able to clear their land “as soon as possible” and within the 10 year mark.

Among positive points of the request we note the following:

- The request is for a relatively short amount of time to address a clearly specified area of remaining cluster munition contamination totaling 2.14 km²;
- Bosnia has reported on progress to date on area cleared and number and type of cluster munitions found and destroyed. It has also reported on the area reclassified as UXO contaminated;
- The request provides clearance rates for different types of contamination and presents the overall required funding (2.3 million Eur), some of which will come from the national budget.

A number of points will require further attention:

- The presented work plan is incomplete and does not fully explain the deployment of capacity within the timeframe, particularly in relation to tasks assigned to the BiH Armed Forces and Civil Protection Units. BiH should update its plan as soon as this information is available;
- BiH should provide more information on the reclassification of land to UXO contamination, to address any concern that this land may still contain cluster munition remnants;
- Bosnia should clarify how much of the required funding will be provided by the government and how much by donors, and whether this funding is secured. Bosnia should also clarify whether the existing clearance capacity is deemed sufficient to complete the clearance in the given timeframe.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge Bosnia’s recent engagement in the country coalition concept and call on Bosnian authorities to actively drive this process, together with supportive donors and partners, to achieve the aim of becoming cluster munition-free by 2022.

Thank you.