

**CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS
11TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
11-14 SEPTEMBER, GENEVA 2023**



Statement by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dear President and Delegates,

The contamination of Bosnia and Herzegovina with cluster munitions, landmines and other unexploded ordnance occurred during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, between 1992 and 1995.

This very destructive weapon claimed 195 human lives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thanks to the signing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Production, Use, Stockpiles Destruction and Transfer of Cluster Munitions and its ratification in 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina according to the last approved extension from 2021, undertook to clear all remaining known areas with cluster munitions, ending on September 1st 2023.

Since 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center in partnership with NGO Norwegian People's Aid has been conducting a non-technical survey to determine the extent of cluster munition contamination in the country.

Preliminary research results from 2011 showed that a total of 12.17 km² in 140 locations were contaminated with cluster munitions. Additional

analyses in the period 2012-2019 found that an additional 2.43 km² were contaminated at 35 new locations, making the total area contaminated with cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina equal to 14.61 km².

The area contaminated with cluster munitions was cleaned by the non-governmental organization Norwegian People's Aid and the governmental organizations of the Armed Forces of BiH, the Federal Administration of Civil Protection and the Republic Administration of Civil Protection, to whom we would like to extend a gratitude on their dedicated work and commitment.

The total achieved result is higher than originally estimated. The total released area previously contaminated with CMR was reduced from an estimated 14.61 km² to 9.30 km², as a result of continuous analysis through NTS, TS and clearance.

In the clearance operations in the period from 2012 to 2023, a total of 7,932 cluster munitions pieces were destroyed.

Hereby, I would like to proudly confirm that all the tasks on which the cluster munition projects were carried out, are completed in accordance with the planned deadlines.

Bearing in mind that our country had completely destroyed all stocks of cluster munitions in the earlier period, with the completion of these tasks, the process of cluster munitions remnants clearance is finalized.

Of course, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still obliged to provide support to the victims of cluster munitions in their rehabilitation and reintegration, in accordance with current international humanitarian law, including medical care, psychological support, as well as their social and economic inclusion.

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and all other donors and organizations, who

contributed and made it possible to say here today that our country is free from cluster munitions.

I would like to praise once again the dedicated work of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center staff, because despite all the technical and operational difficulties, as well as the lack of our operational staff, we managed to complete the mentioned activities, according to the planned deadlines.

We do really have something to be proud of and justify the existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center, confirming once again that we are one of the most successful centers for mine action in the region and beyond.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and Ms. Pamela Moraga, ISU Director, for their full support in achieving today's successful outcome.

We also cannot forget the key role in supporting the implementation of the Convention, played by Ms. Sheila Mweemba, the former director of CCM ISU. Her dedication and hard work over the past years has significantly contributed to the success of the elimination of cluster munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our goal as a state institution remains determined: to finish forever with the suffering caused by mine explosive devices, to save lives and help future generations to not have to live with this deadly legacy.

Although the process of removing cluster munitions has ended, Bosnia and Herzegovina still faces a struggle with the remaining mines and explosive devices and we expect that the obligations arising in this direction will be fulfilled by 2027, which will make our country completely safe of mine explosive threat as well.

Thank you for your support and attention !