

## **Twelfth Meeting of State Parties**

**Geneva, 10-13 September 2024**

### **STATEMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**



Madam President, Your Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Today at the Twelfth International Meeting of the States Parties signatories of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it is my honor to express a strong and great commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to further face the challenges presented by cluster munitions.

In 2023 Bosnia and Herzegovina fulfilled all obligations in accordance with Article 4 – Clearance and Risk reduction education.

Once again we would like to express our gratitude to all the donors who supported these activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2012.

We would like to encourage other State Parties to fulfill obligations in accordance with Article 4.

We would like to point out that currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina the focus is on fulfilling the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention on Cluster Munition – support to victims of cluster munitions, as well as victims of explosive ordnance in general.

Based on Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, explosive ordnance victims assistance is one of five key goals for implementation of this Strategy.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMACE) as governmental body continuously works in accordance with its own competencies on collection and analysis of all data on explosive ordnance victims classified by gender and age and delivers those data to relevant institutions with the aim to ensure their reintegration into the wider world data systems of persons with disabilities.

Primary goal in Bosnia and Herzegovina is that explosive ordnance victims have access to services which are gender sensitive and have respect for diversity, through which they achieve

their own rights, as well as opportunities that make easier their participation and inclusion in society on equal basis with others.

BHMAIS database there are 232 registered victims of cluster munitions who need our help. In order to improve the process of supporting explosive ordnance victims, it is necessary to revise the database of all victims and their needs.

When we speak about implementation of the projects intended to explosive ordnance victims, we want to express our big gratitude to all donors, partner countries and other stakeholders that support these projects.

The NGO „Posavina without Mines“, with the support of the USA, started with implementation of the project "Disability Employment Awareness". Also, same organization started with implementation of the project „Empowering explosive ordnance survivors for a sustainable future“ with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. The project includes the donation of dryers for fruits and vegetables for explosive ordnance victims.

MDDC implements a project to help explosive ordnance victims by awarding prostheses with support of Federal Republic of Germany.

The project "Support to women – victims of explosive ordnance in Bosnia and Herzegovina" implemented by the organization of amputees UDAS with the financial support of the Embassy of Slovenia in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. The goal of the project is to increase the income of women through family businesses in the field of agriculture, as well as the development of ecological culture through the networking of local activities of women with disabilities.

Also, the organization of amputees UDAS with the support of the European Union and Sweden implemented project “Employment of persons with disabilities”. The goal of the project is the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities on the labor market through the establishment of a sustainable model of professional support and psycho-physical rehabilitation.

Project "Beekeeping as a tool in empowering explosive ordnance victims" is implemented by the organization of amputees UDAS with support of the Republic of Slovenia and the “Beekeeping Academy” of Slovenia. The purpose of the project is to empower beekeepers, explosive ordnance victims.

As conclusion we would like repeat that is our common ultimate goal is a world free of explosive ordnance as a pillar of stability and peace.

Thank you for your attention.