



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Intersessional Meeting 18-20 June 2024

Geneva

Statement - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. President,

Despite strong efforts over the past decade and more, our country is still one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world and the most severely affected in the region.

The current size of suspected hazardous area is 832 km², which is approximately 1.65% of the total country size.

Taking responsibility of becoming state party to the Ottawa Treaty, Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the commitment to preserve lives and be an active partner in banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

Based on a more precise understanding of the remaining challenge, and in accordance with Article 5, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been granted an extension of the deadline until March 1, 2027.

Considering that BiH is paving the way to sustainable development, mine action should be seen as something that removes danger, reduce accidents and fear, and at the same time enabling and accelerating wider sustainable development.

Through mine risk education projects implemented by accredited organizations in 2024 around 49 000 people have been warned of mine danger.

Considering the Oslo Action Plan guidelines, the presented results may be deemed very positive, but we are at the same time aware of our challenges and tend towards increasing operations in the forthcoming years in order to meet the deadlines.

In 2024 has started project implementation through the IPA-Instrument for EU Pre-Accession Assistance in the total amount of 10 million euros as well as the project of clearance of the right bank of Sava River in cooperation with BiH Ministry of Transport and Communication and World Bank.

In February 2023, the project of the new IMSMA-Core started, which represents the gradual transition of the information system for mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the new modern IMSMA Core technology. This will ensure more accurate, transparent and reliable data on mine action. The project is

behind schedule due to the complexity of the procedures for adapting the current data to the new system.

In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center in cooperation with BH Ministry of Civil Affairs and Demining Commission has started the revision of National Mine Action Strategy for period 2018-2025. In the revised document, an activity plan was drawn up for all five strategic goals, for each strategic goal several operational goals, starting points, indicators and target states were set as indicators of the achievement of operational goals for 2025 and 2026. In terms of survey and mine clearance, based on the available capacities, more realistic plans have been drawn up, so non-technical survey activities will be carried out on an annual basis on 67.00 km² through the treatment of 32 mine-suspected areas-MSP, while an area of 75 km² will be returned to the population for safe use. , on an annual basis, which for two years 2025 and 2026 is 150 km² .

In April 2024, the BH Mine Action Center developed the Standard for Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chapter 1. Land Release, Chapter 2. Non-Technical Survey, Chapter 3. Technical Survey and Clearance, and Chapter 4. Quality Management, Chapter 5. Explosive Ordnance Removal assets (UES) and Standard Operating Procedures for Mine Action Chapter 1. Non-technical survey. Has entered into force, i.e. application is expected in 2024, after the completion of the prescribed procedure of adoption by the Demining Commission. Internal consultations regarding the National Standard are currently underway with the aim of harmonizing it with the current IMAS and lessons learned.

In 2024, there were no a mine accidents, but regardless of that, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues with warning activities in full capacity through independent projects, but also through integration into existing mine action operations. The main goal is to ensure the conditions for the full inclusion of mine victims in socio-economic activities, through the development of programs that will improve psycho-social, medical and other professional services for mine victims.

To conclude, Mr. President,

We are well aware that conducting this life-saving work is under extremely challenging circumstances and we pay tribute to all those who are involved in the field of Mine Action and continuously support Bosnia and Herzegovina and mine action efforts worldwide, including national authorities, local communities, donor's community and many other important actors who contribute to this endeavor.

Thank you for your attention

