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**STATEMENT BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AT THE TENTH  
MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE APLC-OTTAWA  
CONVENTION, GENEVA, 29.11-03.12.2010.**

**MINE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election and to wish you every success in conducting our work during this meeting. May I assure you of my delegations full support.

Mr. President,

Fifteen years after the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world and the most contaminated country in the region. Size of mine suspected area at the end of 2010 is 1460 km<sup>2</sup> and is about 2.8% of the total size of the country.

Mine Action Strategy provides Bosnia and Herzegovina free of mines by the end of 2019. During the period from December 2009 to November 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina released 115 km<sup>2</sup> of the land (the joint result for 2009 and 2010 is 243 km<sup>2</sup> or 75% of plan for land release). In 2010, 12 km<sup>2</sup> of the land was released by humanitarian demining through over 320 projects (8.6 km<sup>2</sup> TS and 3.4 km<sup>2</sup> of clearance).

During the first two years of implementation of Mine Action Strategy, the results in the field of humanitarian demining are not satisfactory, they are about 50% of the plan, and they primarily depend on allocations of funds.

Reduction of the remained mine suspected area planned for the period 2011 - 2019 will also largely depend on allocated local and donor resources - funds.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has sufficient capacity to carry out mine actions planned by Strategy 2009 - 2019. Involvement of human resources at companies that carry out humanitarian demining is not more than 50% at this moment and it is very unequal during the year. The most of tenders for humanitarian demining start in September and October which has particularly bad effect on commercial and non-governmental companies due to the fact that they do not have their own

sources of funding, therefore the deminers are involved in actual demining only for the period of 6 to 7 month per year.

In accordance with Achieving the Aims of Cartagena Action Plan: Geneva Progress Report 2009-2010, Annex II, Bosnia and Herzegovina has also launched a project of municipal planning in order to improve connection among local communities, to perform better and more transparent prioritization, to implement Mine Risk Education (MRE) programs in a better way, and to join socio-economic impact with mine action implementation. A total of 30 municipalities with the biggest mine problem were processed. We also started a helicopter survey project - Deployment of the Decision Support System for Mine Suspected Area Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with Center for testing, development and training from the Republic of Croatia, which aims to better identify the risk areas in inaccessible and very hard terrains of second and third category.

Statistics of mine victims in 2010 have a decreasing trend compared to the previous years. Bosnia and Herzegovina is making additional efforts to further reduce the number of victims through all aspects of mine action. This year in Bosnia and Herzegovina we had 11 mine victims out of which 4 were killed. We will provide a more detailed update on the situation in the field of VA during the session tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention.