

**Statement by MAG on the Article 5 Extension Request
Submitted by Bosnia & Herzegovina**

(Check Against Delivery)

Many thanks Chair, and thank you to the Committee for your work. We are always happy to share our views and reflections as part of the Article 5 process, for countries where we have current or recent programmes.

Bosnia & Herzegovina's interim extension request reflects several years of effort to introduce more efficient and effective methodologies. The measures proposed in the request reflect the progress that has been made. If all these measures are implemented fully and comprehensively, there will be a much clearer picture of contamination. This will act as a solid basis for accelerated land release, including through cancellation.

MAG is pleased to have completed our first full year of clearance operations in Bosnia & Herzegovina. We are grateful to the donors who have funded us and we look forward to continued partnership with the national authorities.

Drawing on sector good practice – particularly relating to land release – is critical to making progress in Bosnia & Herzegovina, but also for Article 5 as a whole. That is one of the reasons why MAG is proud to support the Mine Action Review, including through membership of the *Clearing the Mines* advisory board.

We remain firmly of the view that all states and operational organisations should apply the recommendations contained in the Mine Action Review's reports. Doing so will save time and money. But most importantly, it will accelerate progress towards our shared goal of a Landmine Free 2025 and improve the lives of the 60 million people who still live in unacceptable risk and fear of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Thank you.

ENDS