

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia (Chair), Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom)

#### Intersessional Meetings 18 – 20 June 2024

#### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

##### I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2023 it released 32 square kilometres of suspected hazardous area, including 16.38 square kilometres cancelled through systematic and non-technical survey, 15.66 square kilometres addressed through technical and non-technical methods, and 0.36 square kilometres cleared.
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported completion of 12 mine suspected areas (MSAs)<sup>1</sup> measuring 13,624,564 square metres, in the process destroying 691 anti-personnel mines and 368 items of unexploded ordnance.
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported 17 clearance tasks measuring 352,088 square metres were completed, in the process destroying 32 anti-personnel mines, 4 anti-tank mines and 32 items of UXO.
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported completion of 62 mine/cluster munition tasks, measuring 1,985,518 square metres, including 1,317,219 square kilometres reduced through technical survey, and clearance of 177,894 square metres, in the process destroying 95 anti-personnel mines, 28 anti-tank mines and 101 items of explosive remnants of war (ERW).
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported clearance of 10 tasks measuring 548,504 square metres, in the process destroying 434 items of cluster munition and 121 items of explosive remnants of war (ERW).
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in the reporting period a total of 786 anti-personnel mines, 27 anti-tank mines, 434 items of cluster munition, and 590 items of UXO were destroyed.
7. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature in "Goraždanka" and "Čapljinka" and that their detection is possible through standardised methods of demining. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination. (Action #21)

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<sup>1</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that a mine suspected areas is: "An area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit...MSA represents an organizational task for a demining organization".

8. The Committee observed that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2020 extension request. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 extension request.
9. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the Guide to Reporting and reporting in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), and disaggregated by type of contamination. (Action #8, Action #22)

## **II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)**

10. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided some clarity<sup>2</sup> concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a remaining challenge of 6,912 mined areas measuring 838,287,931 square metres, including 670 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 17,907,279 square metres and 6,242 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 820,380,652 square metres (Action #22). Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported 34 MSAs measuring 56.6 square kilometres and 6 individual tasks of technical survey and clearance measuring 0.56 square kilometres, with a total number of 170,657 mines remaining to be addressed. The Committee encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHA and CHA and their relative size. (Action #22)
11. The Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on these efforts. (Action #18)
12. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that its efforts in implementation are based on gender equality and diversity and consider the needs of people in affected communities, including through the development and implementation of its mine action plan. (Action #18)

## **III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)**

13. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 extension request contained a work plan for the period of the extension. The Committee also recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina had in place a national evidence based and costed strategy for the period 2018-2025. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that a review of the Strategy is planned to take place in 2024, in line with the Bosnia and Herzegovina's Article 5 deadline of 5 March 2027 (Action #2, #19). The Committee further recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 extension request included a work plan that projected to address 142.4 square kilometres annually for the period 2021-2025. (Action #2)
14. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to annually update their national work plan based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had identified 186.59 square kilometres of

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<sup>2</sup> "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

category 1 areas to be addressed, 220.36 square kilometres of category 2 areas, and 431.34 square kilometres of category 3 areas remaining to be addressed<sup>3</sup>. (Action #20)

15. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported an annual national financial contribution towards implementation from several cantonal governments, cities and municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for in 2024 totalling 1,332,500 BAM.

16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to strengthen partnerships and integrate responses between mine action related activities and humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant, including the role of mine action in poverty reduction through enabling the use of economic resources, infrastructure and tourism facilities, as well as in humanitarian response. (Action #1, Action #6)

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina's national work plan and strategies which are developed in an inclusive manner. The Committee welcomed the updated from by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome further information in this regard. (Action #3)

18. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that it has no legal framework for sustainable national capacity for any previously unknown mined areas discovered after the fulfilment of obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. The Committee welcomed the update from Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome further updated information and on the proposed timeline and process of approval of the development of such a framework. (Action #26)

#### **IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)**

19. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards (NMAS) up to date, including the update and revision of the existing national standards which is awaiting adoption by the National Demining Commission. The Committee welcomes the update from Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome further information on the proposed timeline and process of adoption of the updated NMAS. (Action #5)

20. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system, including that it has had information management system in place since 1997 that is recognised and prescribed by the national law on demining. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that in order to enable real time communication and access data from the field it will move to a new information management system based on IMSMA Core, and that migration of data is underway, with the project envisaged to continue for a period of 18 months. (Action #9)

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<sup>3</sup> The first category in priority encompasses repatriation, demining of housing objects for people to return, reconstruction of settlements, educational and health facilities, agricultural land, industrial complexes, forests, tourist and forest locations away from inhabited areas, where both mine risk and mine threat are low. The second category in priority encompassed areas in occasional use or areas that border with I category areas. They represent a minimum safety belt through already treated I category locations, and they are defined by logical geographic unit borders. Traditionally, such areas are neither interesting nor motivating the residents to move towards periphery areas treated as III category in priority. The third category in priority encompasses SHAs with the least possible risk but with probable consequences dating from the war, since they were located between the confrontation lines. These are distant locations without traditional or any other recognizable motifs that would make people approach or move. They also do not contain strategically significant natural resources.

21. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including through the collection, processing and analysis of data to improve mine/cluster munition threat assessment and analysis of the impact on affected communities. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported meetings to analyse completed mine tasks are conducted with the aim to identify best practices in order to inform faster and more efficient methods of work. (Action #27).

#### **V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them**

22. In considering Bosnia and Herzegovina's request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided updated information on the following;

- Progress in implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025;
- Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
- Updates regarding national and international resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and efforts in raising awareness of the lack of funding with state authorities, public enterprises and local authorities to fund clearance operations and the result of these efforts;
- Update on efforts by Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention (e.g. establishing an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders) and the results of these efforts;
- Progress of land release activities relative to the commitments given in Bosnia and Herzegovina's annual work plans, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards;
- Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion, and;
- Adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

23. The Committee would welcome updated information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the following decisions of the 18MSP;

- Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age.

24. The Committee recalled that in considering Bosnia and Herzegovina's request, the 18MSP had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit by 30 April 2023 an updated work plan for the

remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee observed that, as of 1 June 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina has not submitted an updated work plan in line with the decision of the 18MSP. The Committee reiterated the importance of States Parties adhering to decisions of the States Parties on requests for extension and would welcome information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the status of the updated work plan.

## **VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)**

25. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes, including methodologies used, challenges faced, and the results achieved with information disaggregated by gender and age, including the use of public information, education of at-risk groups, primary schools, migrant populations, and liaison between mine action and MSA communities. (Action #32)

26. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education into wider efforts, including integration of risk education into humanitarian projects for migrants, and school-based project, “Think Mines”, to educate and raise mine awareness among children. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education into mine action activities to address the specific threats faced by affected populations in undertaking their everyday activities. (Action #28)

27. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes with all affected groups based on their specific needs and threats faced. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that presentations and material that is age and gender-sensitive according to data from recent general assessment projects and mine accidents. (Action #29)

28. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk, including through an analysis of the needs and habits of the local population, the mine suspect areas and accidents. In this regard, farmers, hunters and forest workers have been identified as at-risk groups as they, despite the threat of mines, enter mine suspect area. Children have also been identified as an important target group. (Action #30)

29. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to build national capacities, including the integration of mine awareness in school curricula. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that in the case of previously unknown areas being identified marking, and delivery of specific presentations adapted to habits, age and gender are undertaken. (Action #31)

## **VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)**

30. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided quality information on challenges in implementation; including,

- reduced donor interest,
- the inability of institutions to finance projects,
- a lack of understanding of the significance of the mine awareness process (Action #8).

**he Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker**  
**Article 5 Implementation**  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
<b>#1</b>	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
<b>#2</b>	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
<b>#3</b>	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
<b>#5</b>	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
<b>#6</b>	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
<b>#8</b>	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
<b>#9</b>	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

**SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS**

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Chad on these efforts.
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						The Committee welcomed the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						
#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						The Committee would welcome additional information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to establish a sustainable plans

							national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion of its Article 5.
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						
<b>MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION</b>							
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)</b>
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						
#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes						
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered						
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results						





