

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Austria, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

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

I. Progress in implementation

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2018, 5.03 square kilometres were reduced through technical survey and 0.92 square kilometres were released through clearance with 2,101 anti-personnel mines and 1,974 explosive remnants of war located and destroyed.
2. The Committee observed that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that previously provided. The Committee recalled its conclusions presented to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) in 2018 which noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide considerably more clarity regarding its progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided some clarity regarding its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 4,286 “locations” as containing mines remaining to be addressed containing an estimated 82,000 anti-personnel mines and items of unexploded ordnance. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that an additional 8,525 “locations” affecting 1,369 communities were suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, with a total estimated area of 1,018 square kilometres.
4. The Committee recalled in conclusions presented by the Committee to the 17MSP in 2018 that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, including through the use of table as set out in the Guide to Reporting, on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a request for extension in 2018 which was granted by the 17MSP. The request included a summary of milestones to be achieved in the period of 2019-2020 including, an estimated 164,000,000 square metres to be cancelled through non-technical survey, 26,000,000 square metres reduced through technical survey and 2,000,000 square metres to be released through clearance. The work plan also includes a “country assessment” to be carried out by BHMAC to establish a more realistic baseline for planning, improve its information management capacity and continue carrying out survey and clearance activities in accordance with its annual priorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina will then submit a request for extension by 31 March 2020. The Committee welcomes further update from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the assessment.

6. The Committee further noted that the Council of Ministers had adopted Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Strategy 2019-2025. The Committee would welcome updates on progress on the implementation of the National Strategy.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

7. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2018 two chapters of the Standing Operational Procedures (SOPs) related to non-technical survey were approved by the Demining Commission. The Committee further noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had commenced amendments and annexes for all chapters of Standards for Mine Action as well as SOP for Humanitarian Demining. In this regard, the Committee would welcome further information on the status of these standards and SOPs and a timeline for their approval.
8. The Committee recalled in its conclusions presented to the 17MSP that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a draft Demining Law having been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The Committee would welcome updated information on the progress of these matters.

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

9. The Committee recalled that the 17MSP had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request. The Committee would welcome updates on the implementation of these commitments.
10. In particular the Committee would welcome updates on progress in implementation of the "Country Assessment" and "Mine Action Governance and Management" projects and the results of these efforts and updates regarding national 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 results of these efforts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

11. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from mine/ERW, and cluster ammunition areas through public information, education of endangered population groups and the linking of mine actions with the affected community / municipalities. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported 12 risk education projects in various stages of implementation, reaching 36,608 beneficiaries. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Cross Society implemented conducted mine risk education programs for refugees and migrants in Bihać, Cazin and Velika Kladuša provinces. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that regional offices of the Mine Action Centre cooperated with Border Police Regional Units in order to gain insight into potential migration trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result, they conducted verification of mine warning signs status in areas close to migration routes and set up new ones, as required. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that in 2018 a "Think mines" competition was held at the level of elementary schools involving 3,000 students.
12. The Committee noted the actions taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina in MRE and welcomes further information on its efforts to ensure that these activities are age-appropriate and gender-sensitive, coherent with applicable national and international standards, tailored to the needs of mine-affected communities and integrated into ongoing mine action activities, namely data gathering, clearance and victim assistance as appropriate.