

**AP Mine Ban Convention meeting of the Standing
Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and
Mine Action Technologies, 21-25 May 2012**



Statement - Mine situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Esteemed Co-Chairs,

Sixteen 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 in May 2012 is 1330 km² about 2.6% of the total territory of the country. From January 2011 to May 2012 110 km² of the land in Bosnia and Herzegovina was released. Reduction of the remaining mine suspected area planned for the period 2012 - 2019 will largely depend on allocated local and donor funds.

In the first three years of implementation of Mine Action Strategy, results in implementation of suspected area reduction are 84% of the plan, but in humanitarian demining area they are not satisfactory, and represent about 50% of the plan.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has sufficient capacity to carry out mine actions planned by Strategy 2009 - 2019. Involvement of companies is not more than 50% and it is very unequal during the year, and in turn it has particularly bad effect on commercial and non-government companies who do not have their own sources of funding. The ratio of donor funds is still 55% compared to 45% from national sources.

Number of retained mines fits the number of polygons for training and testing capacities of companies and Mine Action Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The number retained is 1624 mines without fuses.

This year 2012 is a time for the first revision of current Mine Action strategy. Bosnia and Herzegovina will finish that task by the end of this year. Revision of strategy will go in two directions. The first is to find new or to improve existing non-technical methods and technical methods for land release and the second is to increase interest of donors and local authorities for financing of mine action.

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 associate socio-economic impact with mine action implementation. A total of 45 municipalities have been processed with the biggest mine problem. We have 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 neighboring Republic of Croatia, which aims to better identify the risk areas in inaccessible and impassable terrains.

Through EU-IPA program 2012-2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to implement reduction of suspected area of the third category by introducing a new methodology using BHMACE's resources. Elaboration of the new methodology will be completed by the end of this year and it is planned to reduce the suspected area by at least 70km².

I thank you for your attention.

Reported by Tarik Sherak