



**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINE ACTION CENTRE**

**Meetings of the Standing Committees
21-25 May 2012
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and
Mine Action Technologies**

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to fulfillment of its obligations from the Ottawa Convention.

Antipersonnel mines are no longer produced in the Republic of Serbia.

Stockpiles of antipersonnel mines are destroyed.

In addition, we are fulfilling obligations related to clearance of the area contaminated with mines. So far we have successfully removed all mines in the border area with the Republic of Croatia, which, apart from security, environmental and economic aspects, contributed to further strengthening of confidence among people and enhancing of relations between Serbia and Croatia.

However, the Republic of Serbia still can not report that it has completed implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, since in late 2009 we obtained knowledge of minefields emplaced in the south of the country by paramilitary forces during the 2000-2002 armed conflict in that area.

In spite of numerous problems, such as non-existence of minefield records and a delicate interethnic situation, we have managed to organize a survey of this area in 2010 and 2011, with the help of the Norwegian People's Aid and ITF. The results of the survey have shown that in 10 locations in municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, mine risk area totals 1.385.215 sqm, and mine suspected area in 53 locations in Bujanovac and Preševo, where the survey is continued, totals around 2.000.000 sqm. The Centre has prepared demining projects and is conducting activities for provision of donations or other sources of funding, so that demining in this part of Serbia can commence.

In accordance with Ottawa Convention, Serbia has undertaken obligation to remove all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction by the 1st March 2014 and hopefully, with the support of donors, we will be able to achieve it.

Apart from minefields that are still emplaced in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, we face with numerous problems related to clearance of the area contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other unexploded ordnance remaining from the 1999 bombing.

The Serbian Mine Action Centre achieves international cooperation with numerous subjects in the field of mine action.

Cooperation with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), as well as regional cooperation through various forms of the work of the Southeastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council, known as SEEMACC, give excellent results.

Good bilateral cooperation has been achieved with Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre and the Croatian Mine Action Centre.

Problems related to demining in Serbia are numerous and without financial help of international community and donors Serbia alone can not solve these problems in reasonable time.