



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on Their Destruction

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I will briefly introduce you to the activities implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina by government and NGO sector since the last Meeting of the Standing Committee held in June last year.

Statistics on mine victims in 2012 have a decreasing trend compared to the previous years and Bosnia and Herzegovina is making additional efforts to further reduce the number of victims through all aspects of mine action. This year in Bosnia and Herzegovina we have had, unfortunately, 3 mine victims in two incidents.

Regulations and legislation on mine victims is regulated exclusively by entities' regulations of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Srpska and Brcko District. Access to disability issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being increasingly coordinated with approaches adopted in European Union, in order to improve the position of people with disabilities, including mine victims.

In the reporting period, ministries of both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina worked on amendments to the legal framework with the intention to improve position of certain categories of people.

The following laws were adopted on both entity levels:

- Law on Pension and Disability Insurance - 03.04.2012
- Law on Social Protection - 03.04.2012
- Law on Vocational Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Disabled People - March 2012
- Law on Health Care of Brcko District - at the end of 2011.

Health Insurance Fund regularly updates Rules on the rights for orthopedic and other aids in accordance with the needs of people. Activities on strengthening physical and mental health in Bosnia and Herzegovina have continued. We have drafted two Rules of procedures that regulate physical and medical rehabilitation, and they also define position and role of mental health in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In all centers for physical and mental rehabilitation continuous medical education is being carried out with all staff teams, which in turn contributes to the improvement of the quality of

service delivery. With this aim, accreditation and certification of all CBR centers by Agency for certification, accreditation and quality improvement services is planned. In order to improve quality of access to health care in Republic of Srpska, three new centers for physical rehabilitation (CBR) and 3 new mental health centers (CMHC) are opened, while in Federation of BiH there is no need for opening new centers, but more effort has been put into further expansion of the teams and training in existing centers.

Pursuant to the Law on Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Families with Children, the state of BiH regularly allocates monthly funds as financial support to mine victims and other civilian victims of war. For financing of the rights of civilian victims of war in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina more than 18 million of KM in the first 9 months of 2011 were allocated.

The significant progress achieved is the establishment of the Fund for vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Fund was opened at the end of last year, while Fund for Employment of persons with disabilities in Republika Srpska exists from 2004. Based on legislation and through these funds, conditions and mechanisms for accomplishment of rights and benefits that aim to improve quality of vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities regardless of the cause of their disability are provided and established.

At the end of the statement allow me to mention NGO sector that contributed with its efforts to the implementation of large number of projects to assist mine victims, promote the issues of persons with disabilities, as well as participate in the process of amendments to the existing legislation.

I would also like to use this opportunity to once again thank all the donors who have enabled a large part of the projects to be implemented with the aim of improving the socio-economic status and resocialization of mine victims into society.

Thank you for your attention!