

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to congratulate HE Mr. Matjaz Kovacic for being elected the Chairman, and wish him every success in chairing the 12 Meeting of the States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

As you might be aware, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been granted an extension under Article 5 of the Convention until the year 2019. Since the last MSP, B&H has continued the planned activities in the clearance of the marked minefields. Due to the shortfall of funds from the donor communities and extremely inclement weather this spring, the plan has been fulfilled at the level of 60% for the first 9 months of this year, but we still hope to meet the set goals by the end of the year.

At this moment, the suspected mine infested area in B&H is 1.274,20 km², or 2,5% of the country's territory. Through the operations of systemic recognizance, 9.958 suspected micro locations have been identified, with the estimated 200.000 mines/UDs. Current area under the risk of being contaminated with mines, defined through 4.119 projects of surveillance for the purpose of humanitarian de-mining is 297,20 km². In addition to that, there are 19.182 reports on the minefields, estimated to be 60% of the total number.

In the period January-September 2012 there have been 7 accidents involving ERW, with total of 10 casualties. Since 1992 there have been 8.055 victims of landmines in total. During the war from 1992 to 1995, there were 6.099 registered casualties. After the war, since 1996 the number of casualties reached 1.687, out of which 591 being fatal. For 269 persons it was impossible to determine the exact date of accident. Since 1996 there have been 113 casualties among de-miners, 46 of which lost their lives. The mine suspected area was reduced since the last report by 65,86 km².

Humanitarian de-mining: For the first nine months of this year the general inspection of the suspected areas was done at 927 locations, at the total area of 84,06 km². The newly detected risky area amounts to 31,55 km², the suspected area (for permanent marking) is 34,41 km², the revisited suspected area is 9,35 km², and the area without risk estimate is 8,27 km². 32% of the newly surveyed suspected area, or 5,73 km² represents the suspected area of Category I that is proposed for clearing activities. The area of 11,21 km² represents the risky area of Category II. The area of 34,41 km² is proposed for permanent marking. In addition to this, 6.649 urgent marking was done at 511 locations. The planning process for the clearance activities in this reporting period has been elevated from the level of endangered local community to the level of the Municipality, encompassing 17 Municipalities in the de-mining action plan. These municipalities are also included in the billboard campaign of permanent marking, as well as in the educational campaign.

Total of 82 tasks of humanitarian demining have been completed, with the area of 4,51 km² being sampled. The technical surveillance reduced the risky area by 3,62 km², and the clearing operations reduced the infested area by 0,88 km².

The total number of 615 anti-personnel mines has been found and destroyed, 35 ant-tank mines, 404 unexploded devices and 3 pieces of cluster sub-munitions. Currently, we have 102 running projects of humanitarian demining, covering the total area of 3,59 km².

In addition to this, 17 projects for raising mine awareness have been completed, and during that process 9007 persons were educated. One project for victim's assistance has also been successfully completed.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman,

In conclusion, I would like to make a few remarks:

- Decrease in interest of the donor community has become more evident in this reporting period, to the extent that it could be viewed as a trend. This is rather unfortunate, bearing in mind that Bosnia and Herzegovina, twenty years after the

war, remains the most mine-affected country in Europe, with the vast area of 2.5 % of its territory being suspected for ERWs.

- I would like to commend the activities of the ITF (Enhancing Human Security), as well as other NGOs involved in the process of mine clearance in B&H, for their perseverance and continuous efforts in the areas of education, victims assistance, mine awareness, as well as for the drawing attention of the donors. The ITF organized the III Coordination meeting of the stakeholders in BiH, in which the ambassadors of the donor countries, as well as the representatives of IC and local authorities, took part. The meeting assessed the achieved results in the field of humanitarian de-mining, and the prospective of better financing in the future. The representatives of International Centre for Humanitarian de-mining from Geneva, EUFOR, German and Hungarian embassy in BiH, Centre for De-mining of Armenia, OSCE, ICRC, ICBL, EC in BiH, USPTC and students of ANOHA were informed about all the aspects of the problem with ERWs in BiH.
- Regional cooperation in this area remains important tool in dealing with this problem as we confirmed at the side event organized by PM of Slovenia and ITF on Monday. My country stands ready to give its full contribution in this cooperation, being aware of the fact that the landmines know no borders, and that the mission of removing them from our lives connects us more than we are aware of.

Thank you Mr. Chairman