

Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties

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Statement - Mine Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr President

Twenty years after the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world and the most impacted country in the region. Size of mine suspect area as of November 1st 2015 is 1137 km², which is approximately 2.3% of the total country size. The Mine Action Strategy anticipates Bosnia and Herzegovina to be free of mines by the end of 2019. From December 2014 to December 2015, 40 km² of the land in Bosnia and Herzegovina were released. Reduction of the remaining mine suspect area planned for the period 2013 - 2019 will largely depend on allocated local and donor funds.

Number of remained mines fits the number of polygons for training and testing capacities of companies and the Mine Action Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the seven years of implementation of the Mine Action Strategy, results in this field of humanitarian demining are not satisfactory, since approximately 50% of the plan was achieved, primarily due to allocated funds.

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

During 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted the second revision of the Strategy 2009 - 2019. The revision confirmed the lack of financial funds as one of the major reasons for late realisation; however, the revision also made it visible that new ways and approaches must be found for resolving mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Due to limited deadline for the Strategy's conduct and improbable financial boost, Bosnia and Herzegovina has approached a

research of technical methods in order to conduct goals driven by Strategy 2009 - 2019.

EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has shown its trust to Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre, providing grant funds from IPA 2011 pre-access funds for the conduct of pilot project named "Land Release". This project will treat 140 km² of suspect area all category. Apart from suspect area reduction, the project defined new procedures, tree chapters of national standards, change and complement SOPs. It also resulted in their accordance with the IMAS standards. EU has also provided high resolution orthophoto imagery for the entire suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The entire operation of Mine Action Centre capacities is involved in this project.

In the second revision of Strategy 2009-2019, its new operational plan envisages that the problem of mines in BiH in the next two years will be dealt by applying traditional and new methods of mine action. In this way, we will be able to fully pass on a new method of solving the mine problem in period after. The transitional period is required in order that all organizations adjust and conform to a new method, along to the tendering process. In course of next three years, around 33% of the remaining mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be solved.

There is a decreasing trend in mine victims' statistics in 2015 compared to the previous years where Bosnia and Herzegovina is making additional efforts to further reduce the number of victims through all aspects of mine action. There was one fatal mine victim in Bosnia and Herzegovina this year.

Reported by
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