



**ANTI - PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**  
**THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES**  
**STATEMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR VLADISLAV MLADENOVIĆ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA, ON ARTICLE 5**  
**1<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

Mr. President,

The Republic of Serbia is a State Party of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since 2004 and is fully committed to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention and regularly submits its Annual Reports in compliance with Article 7.

The Republic of Serbia neither produces nor possesses AP mines. Stockpiles of AP mines were destroyed in 2007.

The Republic of Serbia is committed to fulfilling its obligations related to the clearance of mine contaminated area.

Clearance of minefields in the border area with Croatia was completed in November 2009.

In December 2009, it was established that in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, there were anti personnel and anti tank mines of an unknown origin and type on an area of 3,500,000 square meters.

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention, which was held in December 2013, the Republic of Serbia was granted a 5 year extension of the deadline for fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention - that is until March 2019.

Since the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 270.616 square meters have been demined and cleared in Preševo and there are no more hazardous or mine suspected area in this municipality. The project was financed, through the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security, by the US State Department.

Based on the results of a 2012 demining project in Bujanovac on an area of 76,000 square meters, the Mine Action Center of the Republic of Serbia reclassified the area initially categorized as a confirmed hazardous area into a mine suspected hazardous area, with an integrated approach that includes survey, manual demining and detection by mine detection dogs.

The Serbian Government, in 2015, allocated 100,000 EURO for demining operations which was additionally matched, through the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security, by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement. This enabled the implementation of the project of the Mine Action Center of the Republic of Serbia entitled "An integrated approach to the mine risk land release in the territory of the Municipality of

Bujanovac". The project area totaled 1,179,000 square meters, of which 413,915 was subjected to manual clearance in combination with detection by mine detection dogs, while the rest of the area was declared as an area without confirmed mine risk.

In the Municipality of Bujanovac the remaining mine suspected hazardous area totals around 2,000,000 square meters.

Despite economic difficulties and austerity measures the Government of the Republic of Serbia remains strongly committed to the accomplishment of the goal to make Serbia mine-free by 2019-the latest.