

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 18-22 September, 2006



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Statement by Amira Arifovic-Harms
Member of Delegation**

*Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Bosnia and Herzegovina declared the completion of its stockpile destruction program in November 1999.

In accordance with the Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention, BiH on regular basis provides the UN Secretary General with reports, containing all the data related to the mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques.

Types of mines, their quantities and locations where they have been stored are also included in our reports.

Since the reports are at your disposal, today I am going to concentrate only on to the latest developments relating to the mines under the BiH Armed Forces control.

BiH Armed Forces retained for the training purposes just 163 anti-personnel mines (PROM-1 – 32 pc; PMA-1 – 9pc; PMA-2 - 47pc; PMA-3 -59 pc; PMR-2A -17pc) and all of them are stored on one place, in the Barracs "Stanislav Baja Kraljević".

Beside these mines, during the recently conducted BiH/EUFOR joint inspections of Federal and Republika Srpska Armies Storage Sites. it has been discovered

that the BiH Armed Forces are in possession of more than 15 thousands MRUD mines.

The MRUD mines are directional fragmentation mines, made in the former Yugoslavia, which are designed to be used with an electrical initiation system. For this reason, such type of mines is not considered as a "mine" under the terms of the Ottawa Convention.

But, since they are not adapted to ensure command detonation only, MRUD mines can be technically considered as anti-personnel mines and this is why BiH authorities have initiated the procedure on making the decision on these mines further destiny.

All three options for solving the problem have been taken into consideration, that is, destruction by explosion at demolition site, industrial demilitarisation or industrial modification by licenced company, in such an irreversible way that they cannot anymore be used as anti-personnel mines.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recommended to the Council of Ministers of BiH that although it is in the spirit of BiH Foreign Policy, the mines should be destroyed for humanitarian reasons as well.

Only by making such a decision and through elimination of all the mines that could be used as anti-personnel mines, BiH would show its full commitment to the aims of the Ottawa Convention.

In next couple of days, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina will make a final decision on this issue.

It is expected of the MOD Expert team, tasked to find the best solution how to get rid of arms and ammunition surpluses, to make recommendation to the Minister of Defence for these mines to be destroyed.

By the time such a decision is made, Bosnia and Herzegovina shall, for the purpose of transparency, inform the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on the Stockpile Destruction.

Thank you for your attention.