



## REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines.

In 2015 the Government of Serbia allocated 100,000 EURO for demining operations. The U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement matched these national funds through ITF Enhancing Human Security. This enabled the implementation of the Serbian Mine Action Center project "An integrated approach to the mine risk land release in the territory of the Municipality of Bujanovac", which included survey, detection by mine detection dogs and manual demining. The project area totaled 1,173,000 sqm, of which 414,000 sqm was subjected to manual clearance in combination with detection by mine detection dogs, while the larger part of the area was land released as the area without confirmed mine risk. During the clearance 14 antipersonnel mines and 1 UXO were found and safely destroyed.

The Serbian Mine Action Center will continue to monitor the condition of mine risk reduced areas, in order to control and confirm the results of the project, bearing in mind that this integrated approach project was implemented for the first time in the Republic of Serbia.

In the Municipality of Bujanovac, the remaining mine suspected hazardous area, as of May 2016, totals 2,000,000 sqm.

The Government of Serbia in its budget for 2016 also allocated 100,000 EURO for demining operations. The tender procedure for the implementation of this year's clearance projects - Ravno Vucje, Konculj, Turisko Brdo and Tustica - will soon be concluded. The Serbian Mine Action Center is still waiting to receive confirmation of funding by potential international donors. The speed of completion of mine clearance will depend on the funds raised.

Mr. Chairperson,

Serbia is strongly committed to fulfill its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention before the March 2019 deadline.