



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

STATEMENT

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer  
of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In the report period there were a lot of activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented by governmental and nongovernmental sectors with aim to improve socio-economic status of mine victims.

Approach to disability issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent years has been extensively coordinated with the approaches accepted in the European Union. Last year was marked by progress made on improving legal framework concerning the status of mine survivors and other people with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Working on implementation of this Convention, in October 2010 the Council of Ministers has made a decision to establish Council of persons with disabilities in BiH. On the basis of this document, it was adopted the Strategy for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities that complies with the European Action Plan for people with disabilities. This document contains directions and principles of actions based on human rights in all major life aspects of persons with disabilities. All relevant institutions of state, entity, cantonal and municipal authorities, as well as persons with disabilities organizations have cooperated in preparation of this document with the support of NGO sector.

Besides all these previously mentioned, both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked on amending and adoption of new legal regulations in order to improve social status and rights of mine victims. It is important to note that in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been adopted the Law on professional rehabilitation, training and employment of persons with disabilities. There are current activities on establishment of the Federal Fund for professional rehabilitation which is a new legal framework for persons with disabilities, including mine victims. This law opens new opportunities for economic and social integration for all disabled persons. Fund for professional rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons in Republic of Srpska became functional in 2004. In the past year 201 persons were supported through this fund, while the plan for 2011 is to employ about 220 disabled persons.

Speaking of employment, Bosnia and Herzegovina every year allocates funds to support employment of persons with disabilities. Only in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2010 has been allocated approximately 1 million KM for that purpose.

Bosnia and Herzegovina within its constitutional authority provides protection to persons who need social welfare, primarily for people with disabilities, including civilian war victims and mine victims.

In Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina material rights of civilian war victims are regulated by Law on basic social protection, protection of civilian war victims and families with children. They are financed from the budget of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the amount of 70%, while 30% of funds is financed from the cantonal budgets. We can say that in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the budget for 2010 was allocated nearly 25 million KM for the different type of rights for civilian war victims, as well as mine victims.

Ministries of Health have been working on drafting legal acts and sub-acts as well as their implementation. Through the adoption of the basic legal regulations, measures were taken to equalize the basic health rights of all Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens regardless of insurance status. In order to provide better services for mine victims and other users, Ministries of health implementing a joint project with the NGO on education of medical staff in 60 CBR centers in BiH. We managed to establish relatively high standards of medical care and rehabilitation. In the future we will strive to continue providing quality services, as well as improving their quality.

At the end of the statement I have to mention the NGO sector who, through their work and efforts, has realized a number of projects all aimed at improving the socio-economic status, as well as resocialization of persons with disabilities.

I will also use this opportunity to thank once again to the all donors who made possible the implementation of these projects through their generous donations.

THANK YOU !