



**STALNA MISIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE  
PRI UJEDINJENIM NARODIMA  
ŽENEVA**

**STATEMENT**

By HE Dr. Milos Prica, Head of delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
At the Meeting of the Standing Committees  
Of the State Parties to the APLC (27-30 May 2013. in Geneva)

Reports under Article V of the Convention

## CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me to express our gratitude to HE Matjaz Kovacic for his tireless efforts in successfully chairing the 12 Conference. I also wish to thank all the chairmen of the Standing Committees for preparing this ISM.

Ladies and Gentleman,

As you might be aware, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been granted an extension under Article 5 of the Convention until the year 2019. Since the last MSP, in December 2012, not much has happened in the area of clearance of the marked minefields. B&H has continued the planned activities, as set out in the General Strategy in Demining Activities, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2019. I am glad to be able to report that the appointment of the two new members of the Commission for Demining, that was holding back the activities of the Commission, was completed last week.

Due to the shortfall of funds from the donor communities and extremely inclement weather this winter and early spring, the planned activities have continued at the slower pace, but we still hope to meet the set goals by the end of the year.

At this moment, the suspected mine infested area in B&H is 1.250 km<sup>2</sup>, or 2,5% of the country's territory. Though the operations of systemic recognizance, 9.958 suspected micro locations have been identified, with the estimated 200.000 mines/Unexploded Devices. Current area under the risk of being polluted with mines, which is defined through 4.119 projects of surveillance, for further humanitarian de-mining is 297,20 km<sup>2</sup>. In addition to that, there are 19.182 reports on the minefields, which is estimated to be 60% of the total number.

The number of victims from the APLs has kept its decreasing trend since the last reporting period. In the period December 2012 – May 2013 there were 7 victims of explosions, with 2 fatalities. It is extraordinary, and needs to be stressed, that all the accidents happened in the clearly marked minefields, where the victims entered intentionally, in order to collect scrap metal or firewood. The mine suspected area was reduced since the last report by 20 km<sup>2</sup>.

Stockpile: Number of retained mines fits the number of polygons for training and testing capacities of companies and Mine Action Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are currently 1,460 pieces of defused AP mines detained for training purposes.

Humanitarian de-mining: In the first 4 years of implementation of Mine Action Strategy, results in this field of humanitarian demining are not satisfactory, they are about 40% of the plan and they primarily depend on allocations of funds.

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also launched a project of municipal planning in order to improve cooperation amongst local communities, to perform better and more transparent prioritization, to implement Mine Risk Education (MRE) programs in a better way, and to associate socio-economic impact with mine action implementation. A total of 64 municipalities with the biggest mine problem have been involved.

Through EU-IPA program 2012-2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to implement reduction of suspected area of the third category by introducing a new methodology using BHMIC's resources. Elaboration of the new methodology "general (non-technical) survey" will be completed by the end of this year and it is planned to reduce at least 70km<sup>2</sup> of suspected area. It is also planned to prepare 30 km<sup>2</sup> of area for humanitarian demining operations.

The implementation of the Mine Victims Assistance project began in 2013, financed from EU funds (IPA Project 2011). This action has been coordinated with representatives of the 20 municipalities covered by the project and the required materials have been submitted (public invitation, application form, card for inclusion of the mine victims into the database of, etc.) A web site [www.abs-eco-izbor.org.ba/latiica/index.php](http://www.abs-eco-izbor.org.ba/latiica/index.php) has been created, where data on the activities have been included and all necessary materials and instructions for participation have been set in order to facilitate the application process.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman,

In conclusion, I would like to make a few remarks:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina is adamant to complete demining activities as set out in the National Strategy, by the year 2019. However, the success will largely depend on the availability of the donor funds, which are scarce, and continue to fade away.
- We will continue to exploring every possibility for better regional cooperation, since we share the same problem with our neighbors. I would like to commend the activities of the ITF (Enhancing Human Security), as well as ICBL, ICRC, and other NGOs involved in the process of mine clearance in B&H, for their perseverance and continuous efforts in the areas of education, victims assistance, mine awareness, as well as for the drawing attention of the donors.

Thank you Mr. Chairman