



STATEMENT

*Of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Clearance regarding Article V of the
Convention
13th Meeting of the State Parties to the APLC*

Geneva, 2-5 December 2013

Mr. President, Excellences,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Eighteen years after the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world and the most contaminated country in the region. Size of mine suspect area on December 1st 2013 is 1225 km², which is approximately 2.4% of the total territory of the country. The Mine Action Strategy anticipates Bosnia and Herzegovina free of mines by the end of 2019. From December 2012 to December 2013, 40 km² of the land in Bosnia and Herzegovina were released. Reduction of the remaining mine suspected area planned for the period 2013 - 2019 will largely depend on allocated local and donor funds.

Number of retained stockpiled mines for training purposes fits the number of polygons for training and testing capacities of companies and the Mine Action Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the first four years of implementation of the Mine Action Strategy, results in this field of humanitarian demining are not satisfactory, amounting to approximately 40% of the plan, which is primarily due to the allocations funds.

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

During 2012 and 2013, Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted the first revision of the Strategy 2009 - 2019. The revision confirmed the lack of financial funds as

one of the major reasons for late realisation; however, the revision also made it evident that new ways and approaches must be found for resolving mine problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Due to limited deadline for the Strategy's conduct and improbable financial boost, Bosnia and Herzegovina has approached a research of technical methods in order to conduct goals set by Strategy 2009 - 2019.

EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has shown its trust in Mine Action Centre Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing grant funds from IPA 2011 pre-access funds for the conduct of pilot project named "Land Release". This project will treat 100 km² of suspect area of 2nd and 3rd category. Apart from suspected area reduction, the project will define new procedures, change and complement SOPs. It will also result in their accordance with the IMAS standards. EU has also provided high resolution ortho-photo imagery for the entire suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina. More than half of available Mine Action Centre capacities is involved in this project and will last for two years.

There is a decreasing trend in mine victims' statistics in 2013 compared to the previous years where Bosnia and Herzegovina is making additional efforts to further reduce the number of victims through all aspects of mine action. There were 13 mine victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina this year, three of them fatal.

Thank you for your attention.