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Geneva, 26 March, 2013

Dear Mr. President,

Please find enclosed the Request for extension of the deadline for fulfillment of obligations under Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction submitted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Please accept, dear Mr. President, the assurances of my high consideration.

Ambassador

Dr. Uglješa Zvekić

S.E. Ambassador Matjaž Kovačič
President of the Twelfth Meeting
Of the States Parties
Anti-Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

C/o the Implementation Support Unit

Geneva



Republic of Serbia

**Request for extension of the deadline for fulfillment of obligations under
Article 5 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

Belgrade, March 2013

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Executive Summary

1. The former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, on 18 September 2003. The Convention entered into force on 1 March 2004. The continuity to the Convention in relation to the Republic of Serbia was established in accordance with Article 60 of the Charter of the State Union. Serbia is fully committed to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention.

In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Convention, Serbia has an obligation to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in minefield areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible, but not later than ten years after the entry into force of the Convention (1 March 2014).

2. Mine clearance activities in Serbia started in 2003. During 2002 and 2003, the survey of approximately 10,000,000 square meters of suspected area was carried out. When demining began in 2003, the municipality of Šid (near the border with the Republic of Croatia) was the only mine-affected area. International financial assistance provided to Serbia for fulfilling its mine clearance obligations under the Convention was of the utmost importance.

After completing the clearance of minefields in the municipality of Šid on 10 November 2009, Serbia planned to submit the Declaration on the completion of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention. Unfortunately, we were not in a position to do so, because it was established in the meantime that there were new locations in south Serbia suspected of having been contaminated with mines. They contain AP and AT mines of an unknown origin and type, laid by members of the paramilitary illegal formation called Liberation Army of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (OVPBM). This illegal, paramilitary formation was disbanded in early 2001.

3. The Republic of Serbia regularly submits its reports to the United Nations, and/or replies to the questionnaires on national measures for the application of the Convention.

In accordance with the Decision of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC.DEC/7/04) on the supplying of the Report on the basis of the Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM) and the Annual Activity Calendar of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, the Republic of Serbia regularly submits its replies to the Questionnaire on anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war.

On 29 May 2009, the Republic of Serbia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. Also, in the last 10 years, the Republic of Serbia has worked on the implementation of a new strategy to improve the position of anti-personnel mines victims as well as persons with disabilities on all levels.

Furthermore, we are regularly submitting our reports on the application of Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention (“Transparency Measures”) to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GIHCD).

4. Our reports made in accordance with Article 7, including the Reports on the progress made under Article 5, are presented regularly, during the sessions of Standing Committees and the Meetings of State Parties, held in Geneva. The Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) provides updated information on the mine situation and lists of activities undertaken by the Republic of Serbia.

5. Serbia fulfilled its Article 4 obligations before the deadline established under the Convention. After its accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction in 2004, the Republic of Serbia destroyed a total of 1,404,819 APMs.

On the 28th January 2005, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro concluded a contract, reference number LU-UM/4500137147, with NAMSA for the execution of the Project for demilitarisation of total quantities of anti-personnel (AP) mines. The organisations in charge of direct execution of the Project were the “TRZ Kragujevac” (Technical Repair Facility in Kragujevac) and the company “Prva Iskra – Namenska” Barič, where “TRZ Kragujevac” disassembled APMs, and the “Prva Iskra-Namenska” Barič recycled military explosive by its conversion into a type intended for industrial use.

6. Pursuant to Article 3 (“Exceptions”) of the Ottawa Convention, the Republic of Serbia has retained a small number of APMs for the training of members of Serbian Armed Forces for their participation in international peace-keeping missions, demonstration of the effect of mines during practice and the testing of protective equipment and mine detectors. Based on the latest inventory, the Serbian Armed Forces have a total of 3,149 APMs.

7. Serbia keeps track of civilian casualties of the war on the basis of the degree of disability. According to the latest data total number of civilian invalids of war is 2.198 persons. There are no specific records relating to the causes of disability. Equally, there are no specific data related to the age or gender of victims.

The Law on the Rights of Civilian Invalids of War which entered into force in 1996 regulated their rights as follows - disability living allowance; supplement for care and aid by another person; orthopedic allowance; health care and financial allowance related to health care implementation; free and privileged transport; allowance for food and accommodation during travel and stay in another place upon invitation of relevant authorities; monthly financial allowance and funeral expenses payment.

All anti-personnel mine victim survivors in the Republic of Serbia are covered by the system of health care on different levels: emergency medical care; treatment; physical therapy and rehabilitation and supplying with prosthetic and orthotic aid. Landmine victims are treated in specialized institutions for prosthetic and orthotic rehabilitation.

8. Having in mind the complexity of humanitarian mine clearance activities, the Government of Serbia established the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC) in 2002. The SMAC, as a national coordinating body in charge of the humanitarian mine clearance activities in the Republic of Serbia, is responsible for planning and coordinating national obligations under Article 5.

The SMAC realizes its activities through cooperation with the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF) – Ljubljana and other international bodies, including some donor states.

All activities in this area are undertaken in accordance with the standards and principles of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

The SMAC is not directly involved in demining operations but, among other things, conducts a survey of locations suspected to be contaminated with mines, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance (UXO); it develops demining- clearance projects and monitors the implementation of these projects; conducts quality control of demining; issues a certificate of completed demining-clearance in accordance with the IMAS.

9. The problem related to the antipersonnel and other mines contamination in the territory of the Republic of Serbia can be divided into two different time segments:

- the period of the armed conflict situation that occurred at the beginning of the 90s of the last century in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in the border area with the Republic of Croatia, Municipality of Šid, during 1991, minefields containing antipersonnel (AP) mines and antitank (AT) mines were emplaced. They were emplaced mostly by the former Yugoslav People's Army.
- As a result of conflict situations in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, in the period 2000-2001, groups of mines of an unknown origin and type were laid by paramilitary illegal formations OVPBM. Subsequent information that groups of various mines had contaminated this part of the country, too, became known in late 2009.

However, the specificity and complexity of the problem is also reflected in the fact that Serbia faces numerous challenges related to the clearance of the areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – missiles and other unexploded ordnance. All these explosive remnants are either the result of the 1999 bombing, or are caused by explosion and fire in military depots, or are remnants of previous wars.

- During the 1999 air strikes against Serbia, cluster bombs were dropped in 16 municipalities thereof. It is believed that in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, cluster munitions still contaminate the area of around 9,000,000 sqm.
- It is assumed that since the 1999 bombing, 64 air bombs – missiles, weighing up to 930kg, are located on 44 locations in the ground at the depth of up to 20m, as well as in the Sava River and the Danube River.
- There are suspicions that after the fire and explosions in a military depot in Paraćin (19 October 2006) outside of the military installations, in the area of around 2,500,000 sqm, there may be various kinds of unexploded ordnance.
- At the border with Romania, in the Djerdap gorge on the Danube River, in 1944, German war vessels were sunk, containing large quantities of antiship mines and other explosive ordnance, which now pose a threat to people, ships and the environment. In 2006, in this location, a survey was conducted establishing that in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, 23 war vessels were sunk, 4 of which contained anti-ship mines and other unexploded ordnance.

10. Relating to the minefield locations in the Republic of Serbia, the situation is as follows:

a) In the Šid municipality (near the border with the Republic of Croatia – villages Jamena, Morović and Batrovci), the suspected area where different types of AP and AT mines were planted in the so-called “mixed minefields” was the area of 10,000,000sqm. The identification of the suspected area was made due to the mine emplacement records and maps supplied by the former Yugoslav People's Army, the records and additional information submitted by the Croatian Mine Action Centre and other relevant sources. The survey established that AP and AT mines were emplaced in the area of 5,906,791sqm, while the area of about 4,000,000sqm, by an analysis and comparison of minefield records during the survey, was cancelled and returned as safe to land users.

Given that AP mines could not be removed without AT mines, the SMAC made projects for the demining of all sorts and types of mines.

Mine clearance of that area began in 2003. The SMAC worked out demining projects - projects for clearance of all kinds and types of mines and other UXO in the mined area totaling 5,906,791sqm.

The clearance of these minefields took place in the period 2003 – 2009. In total, 5,139 different types of mines were discovered and destroyed: 4,003 AP, 840 AT and 296 UXO. The 44 Projects had been realized by the SMAC in close cooperation with ITF and financial assistance provided from donor countries – the United States of America, Spain, Germany, Norway, Canada, Czech Republic and the European Union. One of the Projects was financed through the funds provided by the public company „Building Directorate of Serbia”.

There are no more minefields in the border area with Croatia. Demining was performed there in accordance with the IMAS. The last mines in that area were cleared on 10 November 2009. Apart from humanitarian, safety, and environmental, social and economic aspects, demining of that area contributed to the further strengthening of confidence among people, business opportunities in the area and enhancement of relations between Serbia and Croatia.

b) In late 2009, different types of mines were discovered in the area of the municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo. Those mines were planted by the members of a paramilitary, illegal formation called Liberation Army of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (OVPBM), during the conflict situation in south Serbia at the end of 2000 and the beginning of 2001.

A survey of that area has been conducted since 2010. It is carried out in accordance with the IMAS standards and procedures by representatives of the SMAC, with the help of the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and the ITF. The survey has been conducted under difficult circumstances - no maps or mine emplacement records available; mine contaminated areas contain not only AP and AT mines, but also other types of improvised explosive devices; the mines have not been emplaced by following military rules; the accessibility of terrain depends on weather conditions. All suspected area is marked with boards “STOP - UXO” in both Serbian and Albanian languages.

The survey established that there is about 3,500,000m² of contaminated area (risk and suspected area) in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, villages of Dobrosin, Lučani, Končulj, Turija, Mali Trnovac, Djordjevac, Ravno Bučje, Cerevajka, Pečeno, Gornja Šušaja.

During 2012, two demining project tasks were finalized. For the implementation of the first project task, the funds were donated, through ITF, by the US Government. The works on this project task, covering a total of 88,032sqm in the area of Preševo, were completed on 6 November 2012.

For the second project task, totaling 75,987sqm in the area of Bujanovac, the funds were donated, also through ITF, by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. These works were finished in early December 2012.

In March 2013, mine risk area totals 1,221,196sqm, and mine suspected area is 2,080,000sqm where additional survey is needed.

11. In spite of the effective and visible results achieved on the issue of the clearance of minefields as an obligation under the Ottawa Convention, the Republic of Serbia is unable to submit the national Declaration on the completion of implementation of Article 5 of the Convention before the 1st of March 2014.

Extension of the deadline for clearance of the mine contaminated area under the Republic of Serbia's jurisdiction or control is necessary because:

- Groups of mines in the area of municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo have been discovered several years after Serbia acceded to the Convention. As mentioned above, mines in

those areas were detected in late 2009 and the survey started in 2010. The Republic of Serbia was not in a position to embark upon clearance activities within an appropriate time in order to comply with the deadline established by the Convention;

- Furthermore, one part of the territory that needs to be cleared is difficult to access. Also, the landmine contamination of this area is the consequence of non-standardized use of mines undertaken by illegal, paramilitary forces;

- Clearance of the mine contaminated areas is more complex than usual, having in mind lack of important information (i.e. mine emplacement records);

- Survey and clearance of the affected area depend very much on the weather conditions;

- Suspected and risk areas are significant and total approximately 3,300,000sqm;

- Up to now, only one third of the area has been defined as a risk area and there are conditions for continuation of demining operations;

- The rest of the suspected area is under additional survey with the aim to confirm or deny existence of mines.

12. The Republic of Serbia's achievements regarding the fulfillment of its obligation under Article 5 have been significant so far. Our aim is to fulfill the remaining obligations within the short timescale. At the same time, we are facing a number of difficulties, and the most important is the lack of adequate financial resources. The unpredictability of secure financial resourcing presents the main obstacle. Furthermore, simultaneously with mine clearance, we have to deal with the clearance of areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs-rockets and other UXO, since they also block significant resources of Serbia and its development and infrastructural projects.

Having in mind all the aspects of this issue, especially inadequate financial resources, the remaining area to be cleared and its characteristics, the Republic of Serbia is requesting extension of the deadline for fulfilling its mine clearance obligations under the Convention.

In this context, the Republic of Serbia is requesting extension of the deadline under Article 5 for a period of 5 years. We believe that a 5 year period is a realistic period in which Serbia could fulfill its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention until 2019.

13. The work plan has the following milestones:

- a) 2013: An area of approximately 832,000 square meters will be surveyed; clearance of an area of approximately 489,276 square meters.

- b) 2014: An area of approximately 606,000 square meters will be surveyed; clearance of an area of approximately 572,116 square meters.

- c) 2015: An area of approximately 642,000 square meters will be surveyed; clearance of an area of approximately 414,668 square meters.

- d) 2016: Clearance of approximately 256,185 square meters.

- e) 2017: Clearance of approximately 247,000 square meters.

- f) 2018: Clearance of approximately 160,000 square meters.

- g) 2019: Clearance of approximately 138,000 square meters.

The implementation of the survey of the remaining areas will be funded from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, while the clearance will depend on donations and is estimated to cost approximately 2,500,000 EUR.

1. Origins of the Article 5 implementation challenge

The problem related to contamination by landmines in the territory of the Republic of Serbia can be divided into two different segments:

- Anti-personnel (AP) and Anti-tank (AT) mines were employed during the armed conflict that took place at the beginning of the 90s of the last century in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in the border area with the Republic of Croatia, Municipality of Šid (1991). These mines were emplaced mostly by the former Yugoslav People's Army.
- Groups of mines of an unknown origin and type were emplaced in 2000-2001 by the members of a paramilitary, illegal formation called Liberation Army of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (OVPBM), in the southern part of Serbia, Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo. Subsequent knowledge that the groups of various mines contaminate this part of the country, too, was obtained in late 2009.

However, in addition to the problems related to mines, the Republic of Serbia still encounters numerous challenges related to the clearance of areas contaminated by unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs - rockets and other unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO). All these ordnance are either remaining as a result of the 1999 bombing or by explosions and fires in military depot, or remain from previous wars.

2. Nature and extent of the original Article 5 challenge: quantitative aspects

Mined areas on the Border with Croatia

The Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC), in cooperation with the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security (ITF), carried out an initial survey in 2002 and 2003 of an area measuring 10,000,000 square meters, which was suspected to be contaminated by landmines on the border with Croatia in the villages of Jamena, Morović and Batrovci, Municipality of Šid. Indications that this area was contaminated was collected from a number of sources including minefield records of the former Yugoslav People's Army, minefield records submitted by the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC), statements by foresters, game keepers and local population, as well as from the Civil Protection and Police.

The results of this survey indicated that various types of AP and AT mines were emplaced in an area of 5.906.791 square meters for which corresponding demining projects were made.

Results of survey

Municipality	Village	Number of Mined Areas	Size of the mined areas (square meters)
Šid	Jamena	24	2,590,723
	Morović	18	3,057,768
	Batrovci	2	258,300
Total		44	5,906,791 sqm

Mined areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo

In 2009, the Republic of Serbia, well ahead of its 2014 deadline for fulfilment of its mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, intended to submit a Declaration of Completion. Within preparations for this, in late 2009, Serbia conducted additional check-up, which also included until then a restrictive area of the “Ground Safety Zone” (the area along the administrative line of Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija – AP KiM, 5km wide on both sides of the line). The “Ground Safety Zone” was established by Military Technical Agreement signed on 9 June 1999.

This subsequently obtained knowledge indicated that in the southern part of Serbia, Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, there existed areas contaminated with groups of AP and AT mines of various types and unknown origin.

During a survey it was established that the groups of mines were emplaced by paramilitary, illegal formation called Liberation Army of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (OVPBM) during the conflict situations at the end of 2000 and the beginning of 2001, in an area of approximately 3,500,000 square meters in the villages of Dobrosin, Lučani, Končulj, Turija, Mali Trnovac, Djordjevac, Ravno Bučje, Cerevajka, Pečeno, Gornja Šušaja.

The results of the survey conducted so far have indicated that mine risk areas¹ total 1.385.215 square meters, while the remaining mine suspected areas² total around 2.080.000 square meters, which will be subject to additional survey in order to confirm or reject suspicion of the existence of groups of mines.

Results of survey

Municipality	Village	Risk areas	Size of risk areas (square meters)	Suspected areas	Size of suspected areas (square meters)
Bujanovac	Dobrosin	4	521,319	2	970,000
	Lučani	/	/	1	36,000
	Končulj	4	373,974	2	690,000
	Turija	1	131,274	/	/
	Mali Trnovac	/	/	2	52,000
	Djordjevac	/	/	1	65,000
	Ravno Bučje	/	/	1	16,000
Preševo	Cerevajka	2	270,616	1	106,000
	Pečeno	1	88,032	1	130,000
	Gornja Šušaja	/	/	1	15,000
Total		12	1,385,215	12	2,080,000

1 **Risk Area** is an area which is confirmed to be mine contaminated and for which a demining project is made and the works can start upon provision of funds for its implementation.

2 **Suspected Area** is an area which is planned to be additionally surveyed in order to be confirmed as mine contaminated, or cancelled if confirmed as no mine contaminated

Areas contaminated by cluster munitions

It has been established through an initial and general surveys that after the 1999 bombing of Serbia, cluster bombs were found in 16 municipalities (city of Niš – municipalities of Medijana and Crveni krst, Kraljevo, Brus, Preševo, Bujanovac, Kuršumlija, Raška, Gadžin Han, Leposavić – part of the municipality, Sjenica, Čačak, Vladimirci, Knić, Stara Pazova, Sopot).

It is suspected that in the territory of the city of Užice there are also areas contaminated with cluster munitions, as a result of NATO strikes on a military airport.

The remaining cluster munitions contamination challenge is highlighted in the following table.

Municipality	Village	Risk areas contaminated with cluster munitions	Size of risk areas (square meters)	Suspected areas contaminated with cluster munitions	Size of suspected areas (square meters)
Stara Pazova	Vojka	/	/	1	400,000
Knić	Bumbarevo Brdo	2	252,042	1	350,000
Čačak	Lađevci	/	/	1	150,000
Kraljevo	Lađevci	1	167,453	1	810,000
Brus	Suvo rudište	1	147,020	1	80,000
Užice	Ponikve	1	468,905	1	560,000
Sjenica	Čedovo	/	/	1	300,000
	Vapa	/	/	1	975,000
	Sjenica	/	/	1	2,200,000
Kuršumlija	Merdare	2	131,609	1	290,000
Niš (Crveni krst)	Medoševac	/	/	1	95,000
	Donji Komren	/	/	1	148,000
	12.februar	1	815	/	/
Gadžin Han	Gare	/	/	1	290,000
Bujanovac	Karadnik	1	139,649	/	/
	Jastrebac	1	568,618	/	/
	Bogdanovac	2	305,833	/	/
	Sebrat	1	175,558	/	/
Total		13	2,357,502	13	6.648.000

Other contamination

In addition to the landmines and cluster munitions contamination, the Republic of Serbia suffers from additional contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as follows:

- It is assumed that since the 1999 bombing, 64 air bombs – rockets weighing up to 930 kg are located in 44 locations in the ground at a depth of up to 20 m, as well as in the Sava River and the Danube River.
- It is suspected that after a fire and explosion in the military depot in Paraćin (19 October 2006) outside of military objects, in an area of around 2,500,000 square meters, there are various types of UXO. So far, the area of 2.547,019 square meters has been cleared.
- On the border with Romania, in the Djerdap gorge on the Danube River, in 1944, German war vessels were sunken, containing large quantities of anti-ship mines and other explosive ordnance, which now pose a threat to people, ships and the environment. In 2006, in this location, a survey was conducted establishing that in the territory of the Republic of Serbia 23 war vessels were sunken, 4 of which contain anti-ship mines and other UXO.

3. Nature and extent of the original Article 5 challenge: qualitative aspects

Mined areas on the Border with Croatia

Fortunately, mined areas on the border with the Republic of Croatia, including AP and AT mines were registered and emplaced in accordance with military patterns with these records being made available to Serbia. These contaminated areas were also located on flat ground which facilitated demining operations.

Nonetheless, these mines had a socioeconomic impact on the communities in these areas. Apart from being a constant threat to the safety of the people, these mined areas blocked the cultivation of arable agricultural land and exploitation of forest, use of local roads, drainage of canals, as well as low voltage electricity transmission network. In addition, the construction of a border crossing between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Croatia was prevented.

Mined areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo

The mines in these municipalities include groups of mines of an unknown origin and types having been emplaced by the members of the paramilitary formations of the illegal OVPBM. These areas are characterized by population of mixed national background (Serbs, Albanians, Roma, etc.). Unfortunately, no minefield records exist for contamination in these areas and mines have not been laid in accordance with a particular pattern. Additionally, climactic conditions affect accessibility to these areas during the winter months.

Mined areas in these municipalities threaten the safety of the local population, above all school children in the Village of Cerevajka where the school is located in proximity of mined area. These municipalities are the most underdeveloped municipalities in Serbia, and mined areas hinder the safe use of local roads, exploitation of forest, and development of cattle breeding and picking of mushrooms, which happen to be the main source of income for the local population. Furthermore, the environment has been threatened, and a risk of fire has been substantially increased. Additionally, the construction of solar plants, primary tobacco processing facilities, etc. has been hindered by mined areas.

Areas affected by cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets, other UXO

Apart from mines, the territory of the Republic of Serbia is substantially contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs-rockets and other UXO.

The presence of cluster munitions, above all, but other UXO as well, to a great extent blocked and obstructed use of hospitals, schools, industrial infrastructure, several airports, hotels and other tourist areas and infrastructure such as ski lifts and paths. All these areas were first to be subject to clearance as being high priority areas.

Today, the remaining contaminated areas are mostly in underdeveloped parts of the Republic of Serbia - on mountains, in woods, but in debris of tourist and infrastructural objects, airports, too, and pose a constant threat to environment and people, namely, they hinder safe exploitation of woods, cultivation of land, cattle breeding, mushroom picking, which is of an invaluable importance to the people from these regions. In addition, they prevent development of tourism, reconstruction and construction of infrastructural objects.

Serbia keeps track of civilian casualties of the war on the basis of the degree of disability. According to the latest data total number of civilian invalids of war is 2198 persons. There are no specific records relating to the causes of disability. Equally, there are no specific data related to the age or gender of victims.

4. Methods used to identify areas containing AP mines and reasons for suspecting the presence of AP mines in other areas.

Mined areas on the Border with Croatia

The SMAC, in cooperation with ITF, organized in 2002 and 2003, a survey in an area of 10,000,000 square meters suspected to contain mines in the villages of Jamena, Morović and Batrovci, Municipality of Šid. The survey was preceded by collection of relevant information on mine emplacement from minefield records by the former Yugoslav People's Army, minefield records submitted by the CROMAC, statements by foresters, gamesters and local population, information and data by Civil Protection and Police.

Mined areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo

A survey was carried out by the SMAC, in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and ITF, as well as the representatives of the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior. Data used in the executing of the survey included data from representatives of Civil Protection, Police and local population. Substantial indicators include data on accidents which happened in previous periods (for example: while picking mushrooms an AP mine was activated and one person was severely injured; while pulling woods from forest, a mine was activated and one person was killed and another severely injured; while inspecting the woods, a forester found an AP mine, and similar cases).

Areas affected by cluster munitions, air bombs-rockets, other UXO

An initial survey of the areas targeted with cluster bombs was conducted in 2001 and then a global estimation on contaminated areas was given. This survey was conducted by the Italian organization Intersos in cooperation with our Police, since at that time the SMAC did not exist.

Since 2003, the SMAC has organized a General survey of the areas suspected to be cluster munitions affected. Priority has been given to residential areas, areas in the proximity of schools, hospitals, airports, industrial and other objects. Data obtained from Civil Protection, Police, Army, different level state authorities, etc. have been collected and analyzed. In addition, relevant data have been collected by visiting sites and discovering from safe area traces of cluster munitions effects, and in particular through interviews with locals – witnesses of bombing.

Hazard level assessment has been given for each area, borders of risk areas determined and marked, suspected areas estimated.

5. National demining structure

In order to respond to contamination, the Mine Action Centre (SMAC) was established in 2002, initially as a federal body within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until 2003 when, through a decision by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, it became the republic body, first as the Service of the Government and later on as a separate organization. The scope of the work of the SMAC has been determined by the Law on Ministries. The funds for its work are allocated from the Serbian state budget.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopts the Work Plan of the SMAC, as well as the Annual Report on the work of the SMAC. The Director and the Deputy Director are appointed by the Government and have the status of civil servants holding position. Apart from the Director and Deputy Director, the SMAC has 7 clerks, as follows: advisor for survey and quality control, quality control officer, advisor for legal affairs and coordination of demining, advisor for planning and international cooperation, personnel officer, accounting and office manager and a financial documentation officer.

The SMAC does not directly conduct demining, but conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related to the following:

- coordination of demining/clearance in the Republic of Serbia;
- preparation of regulation in the field of demining/clearance;
- collecting, processing and storing of data and keeping records on the areas contaminated with mines, cluster munitions and other UXO, on demined/cleared areas;
- survey of areas suspected to be contaminated with mines, cluster munitions or other UXO;
- development of demining plans and projects and following their implementation;
- making of demining project tasks;
- issuing accreditation to companies and other organizations for the conduct of demining/clearance operations;
- approving execution plans of a contracted company or organization for a particular area and issuing a certificate that the particular area has been demined/cleared of mines, cluster munitions and other UXO;

- quality control of demining operations;
 - introducing population to mine/UXO risk; participation in training of personnel for a conduct of surveys and demining/clearance;
 - following application of international contracts and standards in the field of demining, and;
 - achieving international cooperation, as well as other works determined by the Law.
- Demining operations in accordance with the IMAS conduct specialized companies and other organizations registered for such works, and which are technically equipped and employ adequate staff, and as such accredited by the SMAC.

The SMAC issues accreditation valid for a period of one year. In 2013, valid accreditation was processed for 15 companies/organizations – 5 from Serbia, 5 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 from Croatia, 2 from Russian Federation and 2 from Germany.

Tender procedures for the selection of contractors for implementation of humanitarian demining /clearance projects funded from international donations through ITF is carried out by the ITF. Selection of contractors for demining operations that are funded in other manner conducts an investor and based on projects made by the SMAC. Later on the SMAC does an oversight of implementation of these projects, QA&QC, etc.

Destruction of mines, cluster munitions and other UXO in Serbia is done by the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia or companies and other organizations which are authorized for such works.

6. Nature and extent of progress made: quantitative aspects

The following table highlights the total mine clearance progress to date:

Year	Number of Mined Areas cleared	Number of mines destroyed			Amount of area cleared (square meters)
		AT	AP	UXO	
2003	4	446	1,446	/	485.500
2004	7	217	1,193	11	866.800
2005	2	/	624	/	400.000
2006	6	17	109	1	383.850
2007	9	59	270	155	1.044.999
2008	6	74	289	/	1.046.680
2009	10	27	72	129	1.678.962
2010	/	/	/	/	/
2011	/	/	/	/	/
2012	2	/	4	/	164.019
Total	46	840	4,007	296	6.070.810

Mined areas on the Border with Croatia

Demining of the border area with the Republic of Croatia, villages of Jamena, Morović and Batrovci, Municipality of Šid, totalling 5.906.791 square meters was completed on 10 November 2009 through 44 project tasks made by the SMAC.

The area of 4.100.000 square meters (remaining of originally 10,000,000 sqm mine suspected area) was cancelled during the survey by an analysis and comparing minefield records and was established as safe and as such returned to land users.

The area of 5,906,791 sqm was subjected to clearance with a total of 4,003 AP mines, 840 AT mines and 296 UXO having been located and destroyed.

Demining results for mined areas on the Border with Croatia (completed in 2009) (Please see Annex 1a)

Municipality	Village	Number of Mined Areas	Type of contamination	Number of mines			Size of the mined areas (square meters)
				AP Mines	AT Mines	UXO	
Šid	Jamena	24	Minefields containing AP and AT mines	3.532	689	288	2.590.723
Šid	Morović	18	Minefields containing AP and AT mines	469	133	7	3.057.768
Šid	Batrovci	2	Minefields containing AP and AT mines	2	18	1	258.300
TOTAL		44	AP/AT	4,003	840	296	5,906,791

The surveillance, which included quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) over demining operations, was conducted by the SMAC.

The territory of the Municipality of Šid is completely demined.

Mined areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo

Survey operations in these areas have been ongoing since 2010. Of the total area, so far 1,221,196 square meters has been defined as risk area and will be subject to mine clearance operations.

The remaining suspected area totalling 2,080,000 square meters will be the subject of an intensive survey in order to confirm or reject suspicion of the existence of group of mines and to determine the risk area. The area which will be proven not to contain mines will be cancelled from the category of suspected area in accordance with the IMAS regulation.

At the time of writing, a total of 164.019 square meters have been cleared through 2 project tasks of the SMAC with 4 pieces of AP mines being detected and safely destroyed.

Demining results for mined areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo up to March 2013 (Please see Annex 1a)

Municipality	Village	Number of Mined Areas	Type of contamination	Number of mines			Size of the mined areas (square meters)
				AP Mines	AT Mines	UXO	
Preševo	Pečeno	1	Groups of AP and AT mines and improvised explosive ordnance	parts of AP mines	/	/	88.032
Bujanovac	Končulj	1	Groups of AP and AT mines and improvised explosive ordnance	4	/	/	75.987
Total		2	AP/AT	4	0	0	164,019

Areas containing cluster munitions

In the period 2003 - March 2013 cluster munitions have been cleared from 42 risk areas totalling 7.982.312 square meters detecting and destroying in the process a total of 2,235 pieces of cluster munitions and other UXO. Cleared land has been returned to safely use.

Cluster munitions clearance results up to March 2013 (Please see Annex 1b)

Municipality	Settlement/Village	Number of cluster munitions affected areas	Size of cluster munitions affected areas in square meters
Niš	Niš Airport	3	1.560.200
	Niš	7	586.314
Raška	Kopaonik Mountain	6	1.575.466
Brus	Kopaonik Mountain	3	892.512
Kraljevo	Samaila	2	611.990
	Bapsko Polje	2	205.490
Vladimirci	Jalovik	2	207.756
Sopot	Bobije	1	141.979
Preševo	Buštranje	2	353.087
	Šatkin vir	4	378.505
	Reljan Brezovčani	1	244.018

Čačak	Bresnica	2	174.705
Knić	Guncati	2	278.198
Kuršumlija	Merdare	5	772.092
TOTAL		42	7.982.312 sqm

Progress in addressing additional contamination by other UXO

In addition to progress in clearing mined and cluster munitions areas, Serbia has addressed a number of different areas affected by other UXO, including the following:

- In the zone of collapsed bridges on the Danube at Novi Sad, before the foundation of the SMAC, 6 air bombs – rockets have been found and recovered. So far the area of 3.900.000 square meters has been searched on the Danube at Novi Sad and Beška, as well as on the Sava River at Belgrade in the place Ostružnica.
- In 2004, Project for UXO clearance of the Danube riverbed from km 1,231,55 to km 1,232,35 road bridge Beška on Highway E-75 was completed.
- In 2004, one air bomb – rocket was disposed from the former building of the Chinese Embassy in Novi Beograd.
- In 2009, Technical survey of 11 locations on the Danube and Sava, in order to confirm or reject suspicion on existence of unexploded air bombs – rockets, was completed. The area totalling 6,618,000 square meters was surveyed including: bridges Bogojevo – Erdut, bridge Bačka Palanka – Ilok, locations Novi Sad 1 and 2, Port Pančevo nearby Oil Refinery; transmission line Ritopek – Ivanovo, bridge Smederevo – Kovin, Port Prahovo, Šabac, Obrenovac 1 (nearby thermal power plant) and Obrenovac 2 (between thermal power plant and Barič Factory).
- In the period June 2011 – February 2013, Project for Survey and Removal of UXO from the Danube River in the Port Prahovo was completed.
- In the period 2009-2012, 6 risk areas in Paraćin were cleared, in accordance with the project tasks and QA, OC by the SMAC, total area of 2,547,019 square meters, where 10,608 pieces of various types of UXO remaining from the explosion and fire in a military depot were detected and safely destroyed. There is still around 2,500,000 square meters of the area to be cleared of UXO.

7. Nature and extent of progress made: qualitative aspects

Mined areas on the Border with Croatia

Demining of the border area towards the Republic of Croatia, villages of Jamena, Morović and Batrovci, Municipality of Šid, with the population of about 40.000 inhabitants, was particularly important to the Republic of Serbia since it, apart from safety, ecological and economic aspects, contributes to further strengthening of confidence among people and promotion of relations between Serbia and Croatia.

Some of the most notable qualitative benefits of clearance in these areas have been:

- Agricultural areas from which mines have been removed have been returned to their owners and are currently being utilized productively.

- Clearance has also allowed local roads and drainage canals to be repaired, thus preventing floods, contamination of drinking water and other harmful effect on people and environment.
- Low voltage networks for transmission of electricity have been reconstructed.
- Construction of the most frequent border crossing towards the Republic of Croatia (Border Crossing “Batrovci”) has been enabled.
- The police are enabled to secure the state border more efficiently, which contributes to prevention of illegal migrations and other unlawful acts, including prevention of human trafficking.

Mined areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo

Demining of mine contaminated areas in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo has had a number of qualitative benefits including the following:

- Clearance has contributed and will contribute to the safety of the local population, particularly children and teachers of a school located nearby mined location.
- Conditions for safe exploitation of forest, development of cattle breeding and picking of mushrooms have been created.
- Environment protection and protection against fire have been significantly increased.
- Given that these municipalities are the most underdeveloped municipalities in Serbia, for the purpose of their development and prevention of migration of their inhabitants due to economic reasons, demining will enable implementation of development projects, such as for example construction of solar plants, development of wood industry, namely exploitation and processing of wood.

Areas containing cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets, other UXO

Despite the complexity of mine related problems Serbia is facing, significant results have been achieved in the field of cluster munitions clearance, air bombs disposal, other UXO demining including:

Hospital and industrial objects have been repaired on cleared areas

- Hospital and industrial objects have been repaired on cleared areas
- Residential buildings constructed
- Ski cables reconstructed and new ones constructed and ski paths constructed
- Niš airport runway reconstructed and other objects constructed on it.
- Reconstruction and construction of electricity transmission network has been enabled.

8. Methods & standards used to release areas known or suspected to contain AP mines

The following methods have been employed in Serbia to release areas known or suspected to contain mines:

- Cancellation through survey
- Manual demining
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

In Serbia, an initial survey which includes collection of data and analysis of available documentation on mine emplacement is employed, as well as a general survey which follows after an analysis of previously collected data, conditions in the field, statements by local population, hunters, foresters, people dealing with exploitation of wood, representatives of Civil Protection and Police, amongst others. One significant indicator has been data on accidents that have occurred. Unfortunately, in Serbia there is no systematically and centrally kept database on mine accidents and mine victims.

The use of the above methods has enabled the defining of risk area for which the SMAC develops corresponding project tasks to commence demining operations. Critical to this is the cancellation of areas registered as mine suspected areas that through a survey are confirmed not to contain mines (in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards – IMAS).

Demining has been conducted in accordance with the IMAS. Search of the terrain on completed projects tasks has been done by a manual method at the depth of 20 cm, of which on 3 project tasks, apart from a manual method, demining machine was used and on 2 project tasks, apart from manual and mechanical method, dogs were used. The productivity per a deminer was up to 100 square meters depending on mine situation, terrain configuration, land characteristics and vegetation.

9. Methods & standards of controlling and assuring quality

The SMAC as well as its partner operators carry out a number of efforts to ensure the quality of tasks carried out in mine, cluster munitions and other UXO affected areas. The SMAC has conducted quality control operations on all completed demining projects to date. Upon completion of a demining project, the SMAC awards a Certificate of completion indicating that demining operations have been conducted in accordance with the IMAS.

Quality assurance and control is carried out at all levels of operations and could be summarised in the following activities:

- **Accreditation of organization:** each organization is required to provide extremely detailed documentation to the SMAC concerning its experience, how it intends to carry out clearance operations on that specific site (e.g. SOPs, staff experience, safety and clearance equipment, site organizations, medical evacuation etc...). Only when this documentation is provided and has been thoroughly examined does the SMAC issue an accreditation for that company to conduct demining operations in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.
- **Execution plan review:** Once an organization has been selected through the tender to carry out clearance in a specific site, it is required that the organization submits an Execution Plan to the SMAC which provides details concerning who will carry out clearance, with what means, protective equipment, in what manner, with what medical team and equipment, how will it organize the site, deadlines of when it intends to begin demining in a specific location, among other issues. Once the SMAC approves the organization's execution plan, it gives permission to the organization to begin work on the task.

▪ **Ad hoc controls:** During the execution of work, the SMAC conducts ad hoc visits to the site to ensure the proper arrangement and marking of a site, functioning of devices for search of terrain and detection of mines and UXO, whether and how daily records are kept on the performance and progress for each deminer, among other. The SMAC pays special attention to the manner of work of deminers, whether they act in accordance with operation and safety procedures requested by the project documentation.

▪ **Final control:** After receiving information from the contractor that the operations on a concrete site have been concluded, the SMAC commences the final control through an analysis of all previous completed controls, documentation on found mines and UXO and their destruction, documentation on executed works etc.. Along with the SMAC, the contractor signs minutes with representatives of future land users (most relevant representative of local authorities) by which they confirm that they are familiar with borders of demined areas. The contractor and the SMAC sign minute to handover the site which has been demined in accordance with a concrete project task, which identifies the exact location, project, contractor, period of works, used methods and findings. Finally, the SMAC issues a certificate on completed demining of a concrete location in which, apart from stating relevant data, is stated that demining has been done in accordance with the IMAS, which guarantees clearance of 99.65%.

10. Efforts undertaken to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas

The Republic of Serbia carries out a number of efforts to ensure that civilians are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

• **Marking:** The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the SMAC and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

(Please see Annex 4).

• **Risk Education:** Locals are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education was conducted in schools and local communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

11. Resources made available to support progress made to date

Given the economic situation in the country, the SMAC, ever since its foundation in 2002, submits its clearance project tasks (mines, cluster munitions and other UXO) to the ITF for funding. Simultaneously, the SMAC lobbies with other foreign donors to provide funds for implementation of demining/clearance projects.

For implementation of demining operations, to date Serbia has received funding from the USA, Spain, Germany, Norway, Canada, Czech Republic and EU, through the ITF.

Through ITF, funds for implementation of 45 demining projects have been provided (**Please see Annex 1a**), total amount of **8,837,105 US\$**, and an additional demining project was funded by the Public Enterprise Building Directorate of Serbia, in the amount of **250.000 EUR** (completion of this demining project enabled construction of a border crossing towards the Republic of Croatia).

Also, the funds from the Serbian State Budget were used for the implementation of humanitarian demining/clearance project tasks (mines, cluster munitions, UXO, air bombs - rockets) (**Please see Annex 1b**) in individual cases when several ministries, several public enterprises and local authorities funded clearance from several risk areas for which they were directly interested.

The funds from the Serbian State Budget has been provided to support the ongoing work of the SMAC – salaries of the staff, running costs (electricity, water, heating), office and consumption material costs, fuel costs, maintenance of vehicles, costs of the SMAC staff insurance – as well as survey activities, development of adequate project tasks for demining/clearance of locations confirmed to be contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO, follow-up of the implementation of project tasks and conduct of demining quality assurance and quality control.

On an annual basis, from the Serbian State Budget is allocated around **150.000 EUR** for the work of the SMAC.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Resources invested by donors through ITF *	67,056	1,379,238.91	958,363.63	1,239,781.19	2,280,957.29	1,705,451.72
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
	1,780,518.75	2,845,463.11	2,693,141.21	2,272,909.92	1,374,535.36	
Total	18,597,417.09 US\$					

***Funds covered training, equipment, general survey, demining operations, cluster munitions clearance, bombs disposal, mine risk education, CWD training (Data provided by ITF)**

12. Circumstances that impede compliance in a 10 year period

There are a number of circumstances that have impeded Serbia from complying with its Article 5 deadline in its initial 10 year period. Particular issues faced by Serbia are as follows:

- **Discovery of additional mined areas:** Although all minefields known to Serbia by December 2009 were cleared, the Republic of Serbia was not in a position to submit Declaration on Completion of Article 5 obligations, since in late 2009, Serbia obtained subsequent knowledge that in Municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac, there are also groups of mines of an unknown origin and type.
- **Lack of funds:** Funding from donors for mine action activities have severely diminished through the years.
- **Unregistered mine contaminated areas (groups of mines):** The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and have not been planted in specific patterns, which aggravates survey and clearance efforts.
- **Climactic conditions:** Contaminated areas are inaccessible during some periods of the year causing operation delays.
- **Contamination other than mines:** Specificity and complexity of the problem presents the fact that apart from mines still remaining in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia also encounters with numerous challenges related to clearance of the areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO. All these unexploded ordnance are either remaining as a result of the 1999 bombing, or are caused by an explosion and fire in a military depot, or are remaining from previous wars.

13. Humanitarian, economic, social and environmental implications

The remaining mine contamination presents a severe socioeconomic impact on the municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo. These municipalities are the most underdeveloped municipalities in Serbia. Mine contaminated areas affect safety of people (mined areas are in the immediate vicinity of schools and affect safety of school children and teachers). Presence of mines hinders safe exploitation of woods, development of cattle breeding and mushroom picking, which happen to be the main source of income of locals and in that way mines additionally impoverish them. In addition, road communications are blocked, environment affected, and fire risks increased.

Presence of mines prevents construction of solar plants, primary tobacco processing facilities, etc, as well as the development of the region through an increased flow of people, goods, services and opening of new work positions. Demining would prevent trend of locals moving out from this region, which, in the past years, have been massively moving to either bigger towns or cities in Serbia, or in Western Europe countries.

14. Nature and extent of the remaining Article 5 challenge: quantitative aspects

As of March 2013, mine risk area totals 1.221.196 square meters which will be subject to clearance, and mine suspected area totals around 2.080.000 square meters which will be subject to further survey, in the Municipality of Bujanovac (Villages of Dobrosin, Lučani, Končulj, Turija, Mali Trnovac, Djordjevac, and Ravno Bučje), and in the Municipality of Preševo (Villages of Cerevajka, Pečeno, and Gornja Šušaja).

The table below indicates the remaining mine contamination:

Municipality	Village	Geographic Coordinates	Number of AP and AT mines	Size of the Risk Area (square meters)	Number of the Risk areas	Size of the Suspected Area (square meters)	Number of the Suspected Areas
Bujanovac	Dobrosin	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	150.947	1		
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	70.196	1		
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	93.511	1		
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	206.665	1		
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown			970.000	2
	Lučani	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown			36.000	1
	Končulj	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown			690.000	2
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	148.464	1		
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	100.003	1		
		42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	49.520	1		
	Turija	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown	131.274	1		
	Mali Trnovac	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown			52.000	2
	Djordjevac	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown			65.000	1
	Ravno Bučje	42°28' N 21°46' E	Unknown			16.000	1
Preševo	Cerevajka	42°18'20" N 21°38'34" E	Unknown	165.000	1		
		42°18'20" N 21°38'34" E	Unknown	105.616	1		

		42°18'20" N 21°38'34" E	Unknown			106.000	1
	Pečeno	42°18'20" N 21°38'34" E	Unknown			130.000	1
	Gornja Šušaja	42°18'20" N 21°38'34" E	Unknown			15.000	1
Total				1,221,196	10	2,080,000	12

The table below indicates the remaining cluster munitions contamination:

Municipality	Village	Risk areas contaminated with cluster munitions	Size of risk areas (square meters)	Suspected areas contaminated with cluster munitions	Size of suspected areas (square meters)
Stara Pazova	Vojka	/	/	1	400,000
Knić	Bumbarevo Brdo	2	252,042	1	350,000
Čačak	Lađevci	/	/	1	150,000
Kraljevo	Lađevci	1	167,453	1	810,000
Brus	Suvo rudište	1	147,020	1	80,000
Užice	Ponikve	1	468,905	1	560,000
Sjenica	Čedovo	/	/	1	300,000
	Vapa	/	/	1	975,000
	Sjenica	/	/	1	2,200,000
Kuršumlija	Merdare	2	131,609	1	290,000
Niš (Crveni krst)	Medoševac	/	/	1	95,000
	Donji Komren	/	/	1	148,000
	12. februar	1	815	/	/
Gadžin Han	Gare	/	/	1	290,000
Bujanovac	Karadnik	1	139,649	/	/
	Jastrebac	1	568,618	/	/
	Bogdanovac	2	305,833	/	/
	Sebrat	1	175,558	/	/
Total		13	2,357,502	13	6.648.000

Other contamination

In addition to the landmines and cluster munitions contamination, the Republic of Serbia suffers from additional contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as follows:

- It is assumed that since the 1999 bombing, 64 air bombs – rockets weighing up to 930 kg are located in 44 locations in the ground at a depth of up to 20 m, as well as in the Sava River and the Danube River.
- It is suspected that after a fire and explosion in the military depot in Paraćin (19 October 2006) outside of military objects, in an area of around 2,500,000 square meters, there are various types of UXO.

- On the border with Romania, in the Djerdap gorge on the Danube River, in 1944, German war vessels were sunken, containing large quantities of anti-ship mines and other explosive ordnance, which now pose a threat to people, ships and the environment. In 2006, in this location, a survey was conducted establishing that in the territory of the Republic of Serbia 23 war vessels were sunken, 4 of which contain anti-ship mines and other UXO.

15. Nature and extent of the remaining Article 5 challenge: qualitative aspects

The remaining contamination by mines is located on mostly hilly and mountainous terrain. This terrain/land is of an utmost importance to the population of nearby villages from the aspect of cattle breeding, exploitation of woods, mushroom picking, and tobacco production. Additionally, risk areas and suspected mined areas are in an immediate vicinity of settlements, thus posing a constant threat to safety of local population.

Mine action operations will also face challenges due to the fact that operations cannot be carried out throughout the whole year, but only when weather conditions permit it, namely in accordance with the IMAS, the temperature for demining works to be carried out needs to be over 5C⁰, and in case of Serbia it is the period March – early December.

16. Amount of time requested and rationale for this amount of time

Starting from the fact that due to difficult economic situation, demining/clearance operations in Serbia are funded mostly from international donations, and given that there is an evident trend of a reduction of financial participation of international donors for demining/clearance operations in the South East European countries, including Serbia, and in a situation when some donors are exclusively interested in funding cluster munitions clearance, we believe that a 5 year period is a realistic period in which Serbia could fulfill its obligations, that is Serbia could be cleared of mines by 2019.

Unlike the period 2003-2009 when Serbia was clearing minefields on the border with Croatia and when donors' interest and flow of donations were substantially higher, unfortunately, it is not the case now.

Therefore, we expect that Serbia will need a 5 year period to fulfill its obligations.

However, if funds are available and at disposal, Serbia would be able to finish its obligations before this period.

During this period Serbia will carry out clearance operations of risk areas in Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo, as well as a survey and subsequent clearance of those areas confirmed to be mine contaminated, in accordance with the IMAS, and cancellation of those areas confirmed not to be mine contaminated, also in accordance with the IMAS.

17. Detailed work plan for the period of the requested extension

Survey operations

By the first half of 2015, the SMAC will, in cooperation with NPA, endeavor to complete a survey of the remaining mine suspected areas measuring 2,080,000 square meters in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo giving priority to surveying the areas which directly affect the most vulnerable population.

The survey will face a number of challenges including primarily:

- Lack of mine emplacement records
- Difficult accessible terrain
- Weather conditions limiting the timeframe which allows for survey operations to take place.

Given that these groups of mines have been emplaced without being registered and without a specific pattern, the survey is very complex, and predictability of the dynamics and size of surveyed areas is completely uncertain.

The survey will include analysis of data collected during previously surveys, conditions in the field, statements by local population, hunters, foresters, and people dealing with exploitation of wood, representatives of Civil Protection and Police, amongst others.

The use of the above methods will enable the defining of risk area for which the SMAC will develop corresponding project tasks to commence demining operations. Critical to this is the cancellation of areas registered as mine suspected areas that through survey will be confirmed not to contain mines (in accordance with the IMAS). However, as we indicated above, the predictability of the size the areas to be canceled and the areas to be identified as risk areas is completely uncertain.

Nonetheless, we estimate that out of the remaining 2,080,000 square meters, approximately 1,023,951 square meters will be cancelled (in accordance with the IMAS), and approximately 1,056,049 square meters will be identified as risk areas and will be subject to clearance (in accordance with the IMAS).

Survey, as well as the development of demining projects, and oversight of implementation and quality control of completed works are regular activity of the SMAC and are funded and will be funded from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, which on an annual basis, totals around 150.000 EUR.

Survey milestones:

2013: An area of approximately 832,000 square meters will be surveyed:

- Municipality of Preševo, Villages of Cerevajka, Pečeno and Gornja Šušaja – total area of 251,000 square meters (in the village of Cerevajka there is a mine suspected area in an immediate vicinity of a school);
- Municipality of Bujanovac, Villages of Dobrosin, Ravno Bučje, Đorđevac – total area of 581,000 square meters.

2014: An area of approximately 606,000 square meters, which will include:

- Municipality of Bujanovac, Villages of Dobrosin, Lučani, Končulj.

2015: An area of approximately 642,000 square meters, which will include:

- Municipality of Bujanovac, Villages of Končulj, Mali Trnovac.

Clearance operations

Simultaneously with a survey of mine suspected areas, demining will be conducted for the projects already developed by the SMAC - for currently mine risk area of 1,221,196 sqm, as well as for the projects which will be developed for mine risk areas resulting from the survey of remaining mine suspected areas, in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo.

Demining operations will follow upon securing of funding from donors or other sources of funding.

Namely, if and when the funds are provided, commercial companies and/or non governmental organizations accredited by the SMAC, which will be selected on public tenders for selection of contractors, will carry out demining works on defined risk areas, in accordance with the project tasks, and QA and QC of the SMAC.

Just like in the case of a survey, priority will be to demine those areas which directly affect the most vulnerable population category – children and people in general.

However, sometimes donors themselves, depending on availability and amount of their funds, influence the choice of the areas which will be demined first.

As it was the case in previous periods, when Serbia managed to complete clearance of minefields, which were located in one part of its territory (Municipality of Šid) and to commence demining of newly discovered mine contaminated areas (Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo), in the forthcoming period during a survey, demining, QA and QC the IMAS will be applied.

Demining will be conducted primarily by manual method.

Price of demining of 1sqm of mine contaminated area ranges from **0.8 to 1.3 EUR** depending on land characteristics and terrain configuration.

Despite the difficult economic situation in the country and lack of funds from the Budget, we will endeavor to secure funding of demining either by submitting projects to ITF applying for their funding, or lobbying with other foreign donors to provide funds for implementation of projects. The dynamics of implementation of our demining projects is affected by provision of funds, that is if the funds for implementation of our projects are not provided, our plan will be directly affected and hard to achieve. On the other hand, if more funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in shorter period.

At the same time, Serbia has to deal with clearance of areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, since they also block substantial resources and hinder implementation of development and infrastructure projects.

**Work Plan for the period of the requested extension 2014-2019
Demining of groups of mines in Municipalities of Bujanovac and Preševo**

Year	Estimated mine suspected area to be subject to survey *	Source of funding for survey	Estimated amount of risk area to be cleared (square meters)	Source of funding for demining
2013	832,000	National Budget	489,276	Donations
2014	606,000	National Budget	572,116	Donations
2015	642,000	National Budget	414,668	Donations
2016	resurvey	National Budget	256,185	Donations
2017	resurvey	National Budget	247,000	Donations
2018	resurvey	National Budget	160,000	Donations
2019	resurvey	National Budget	138,000	Donations
Total	around 2,080,000 sqm**		around 2,277,245 sqm	around 2,500,000 EUR***

*Survey, as well as making of demining/clearance projects, following of their implementation, QC and QA of completed works are regular activities of the SMAC and are funded from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, which on an annual level amounts to approximately 150,000 EUR.

**If an area contaminated with mines, which is planned to be additionally surveyed, is confirmed not to be mine contaminated it will be cancelled, and an area confirmed to be mine contaminated will be subject to full clearance. We estimate that out of 2.080.000 sqm of mine suspected area, around 1,023,951 sqm will be cancelled and around 1,056,049 sqm will be subject to full clearance in addition to already established risk area of 1,221,196 sqm, meaning that the area which needs to be fully cleared of mines totals around 2,277,245 sqm.

***Price of demining of 1sqm of mine contaminated area ranges from 0.8 to 1.3 EUR depending on land characteristics and terrain configuration.

Work Plan for clearance of cluster munitions and other UXO in the period 2014-2019

Year	Estimated cluster munitions and UXO suspected area to be subject to survey	Source of funding for survey	Estimated amount of risk area to be cleared (square meters)	Source of funding for clearance
2013	2,000,000	National Budget	1,400,000	Donations
2014	2,000,000	National Budget	1,400,000	Donations
2015	1,000,000	National Budget	1,400,000	Donations
2016	1,000,000	National Budget	1,400,000	Donations
2017	1,000,000	National Budget	1,400,000	Donations
2018	1,000,000	National Budget	1,000,000	Donations
2019	1,000,000	National Budget	1,000,000	Donations
Total	around 9,000,000 sqm		around 9,000,000 sqm	

Just like in case of demining operations, if an area contaminated with cluster munitions/UXO, which is planned to be additionally surveyed, is confirmed not to be cluster munitions/UXO contaminated, it will be cancelled, and an area confirmed to be munitions/UXO contaminated will be subject to full clearance.

Serbia will revise the work plan periodically and present any changes to the States Parties.

Given that the demining/clearance projects prepared will be tendered, the plans presented above will most likely change, including the budget.

18. Institution, human resource and material capacity

The SMAC is a state authority in charge of coordination and managing of projects in the field of humanitarian demining. It employs 9 clerks.

The SMAC does not directly conduct demining.

Demining operations in accordance with the IMAS conduct and will conduct specialized companies and other organizations registered for such works, and which are technically equipped and employ adequate staff, and as such accredited by the SMAC.

The SMAC issues accreditation valid one year. In 2013, valid accreditation possess 15 companies/organizations – 5 from Serbia, 5 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 from Croatia, 2 from Russian Federation and 2 from Germany.

Tender procedures for the selection of contractors for implementation of humanitarian demining projects funded from international donations through the ITF conducts the ITF.

Selection of contractors for demining operations that are funded in other manner conducts an investor.

Destruction of mines and other unexploded ordnance in Serbia is done by the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia or companies and other organizations which are authorized for such works.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

Initial survey is the procedure that includes collection of data and analysis of available documentation on mine emplacement.

General Survey is the procedure of, from a safe surface, collecting and processing data on the pollution of an area and/or building with mines, cluster munitions and UXO, as well as establishing the basic technical characteristics of an area and/of building and marking Suspected Area.

Risk Area is an area which is confirmed to be mine contaminated and for which a demining project is made and the works can start upon provision of funds for its implementation.

Suspected Area is an area which is planned to be additionally surveyed in order to be confirmed as mine contaminated, or cancelled if confirmed as no mine contaminated.

Demining is the procedure of finding and marking, as well as incapacitating and destroying mines and UXO at the worksite.

Data collection is a group of organized and planned activities to establish sources (subjects) with information on mines, cluster munitions, UXO and other elements of mine situations, contact establishment and the retrieval of data.

Assessment of mine suspected area includes natural, infrastructural and social categories polluted by mines or suspect of being polluted by mines, monitored in the context of their influence on humanitarian demining planning, the social and economic situation and development plans of a community.

Standard Operative Procedures (SOP) are procedures through which an authorized legal entity, in detail, establishes the method of demining activities, drafted in accordance to international standard operative procedures prescribed by the United Nations.

Unexploded Explosive Ordnance includes mines, ammunition, aircraft-projectiles and naval assets.

Mines are separated into: anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines, detonators, special detonators, trap mines and other formational detonators.

Totally cleared is the state in which the entire worksite is clear of all mines and UXO up to the depth of 20 cm confirmed through quality control, or in case of cluster munitions up to the depth of 50 cm.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APM	Anti-Personnel mines
ATM	Anti-Tank mines
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
ITF	International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Safety
JNA	Former Yugoslav People's Army
AP KiM	Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MSA	Mine Suspected Area
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
OVPBM	Liberation Army of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medvedja
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
MRA	Mine Risk Area
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SMAC	Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia
UXO	Unexploded Explosive Ordnance