

**Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the
Request for extension submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the preparation of its extension request, which have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Committee.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on this request provided by expert organizations, including from the Mines Advisory Group, Mine Action Review and the GICHD.

- On 22 June 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted to the Chair of the Committee a request for extension of its 1 March 2021 deadline.
- Following dialogue with the Committee, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a revised request on 25 August.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina's request is for a period of 6 years, until 1 March 2027.

Following the analysis of the request submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Committee would like to highlight the following points:

The Committee noted the progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina and its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance and in particular its efforts to:

- implement efforts to establish a new baseline for realistic planning
- update its National Mine Action Standards
- Improve data management; and
- strengthen coordination and regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges, and support for implementation.

In spite of the progress made, Bosnia and Herzegovina has a significant remaining challenge to address including in identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and in clearance of contaminated areas. The Committee recognized the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuing to strengthen and implement context-specific mine risk education efforts until the job is done.

Given the fact that survey efforts will provide increased clarity on the remaining contamination in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, given the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is set to review its Mine Action Strategy in 2023, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from Bosnia and Herzegovina submitting to the Committee updated detailed work plans on 30 April 2023 and 30 April 2025 for the remaining period covered by the extension which contains information on the progress made, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with the IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget based on new funding levels.

The Committee further noted that the Convention would benefit from Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

- a. progress in implementation of its National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025;

- b. progress of land release activities relative to the commitments provided, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards;
- c. adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- d. information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;
- e. progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity;
- f. updates regarding national and international resource mobilisation efforts, including efforts in approaching potential donors and efforts in raising awareness of the lack of funding with state authorities, public enterprises and local authorities to fund clearance operations and the result of these efforts;
- g. updates regarding the development and implementation of context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;
- h. update on efforts by Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meeting of the States Parties and Review Conferences, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.