

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Belgium (Chair), France, Iraq, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings 20 – 22 June 2022

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5 BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #22)

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2021 it released 34 square kilometres of suspected mine area, including 24.19 square kilometres cancelled, and 9.81 square kilometres reduced and cleared. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that it released 12 mine suspected areas (MSA) measuring 20,859,470 square metres, in the process destroying 2,900 mines and 722 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that it released 71 tasks contaminated with mines and cluster munitions, measuring 4,267,302 square metres, including 3,226,116 square metres reduced and 60,166 square metres cleared, in the process destroying 227 anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-tank mines, 514 items of explosive remnants of war, and 3,178 cluster bomb units.
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the targeted and systematic investigation of mine suspected areas (MSA) measuring 12 square kilometres were completed.
4. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 extension request. The Committee noted the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting disaggregated information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, (cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance), in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).
5. Action #8 of the OAP requests States to provide quality information on progress and challenges in implementing the Convention, employing the Guide to Reporting. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina could provide more clarity regarding progress in implementation by employing the Guide to Reporting (Action #8).

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge (OAP Action #18, #22)

6. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided some clarity¹ concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a remaining challenge measuring 922.37 square kilometres. (Action #22).

¹ . "Some clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a summary table listing some information related to the number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines in each region / province / district within the State.

7. Action #22 of the OAP requests States to report in a manner consistent with IMAS by providing information on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by type of contamination. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and would welcome further clarity from Bosnia and Herzegovina in this regard (Action #22).
8. Action #18 of the OAP requests States that have not yet done so will identify the precise perimeter of mined areas, to the extent possible, and establish evidence based, accurate baselines of contamination based on information collected from all relevant sources. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was still in the process of identifying the precise perimeter of mined areas and would welcome updated information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on these efforts.
9. Action #18 of the OAP requests States to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided updated information on its efforts to establish Bosnia and Herzegovina's baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men. The Committee would welcome information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in this regard.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (OAP Actions #1, #2, #3, #6, #19, #20, #26)

10. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's has in place a national evidence based and costed strategy in place for 2018-2025 (Action #2, #19). The Committee further recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 extension request included a work plan for the period of the extension that projected to address 142.4 square kilometres annually for the period 2021-2025. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that it will update its mine action strategy in 2023 and welcomes further updates on the progress of the updated workplan (Action #20).
11. Action #20 of the OAP requests States to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. The Committee observed that while Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported that its demining plan is harmonised with the mine action strategy 2018-2025 and that Bosnia and Herzegovina will update its mine action strategy in 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts to implement Action #20 and would welcome further information in this regard.
12. Action #1 of the OAP requests States to demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including by making financial and other commitments to implementation. The Committee observed that while Bosnia and Herzegovina reported to have engaged all available resources to meet its Article 5 obligations, and presented the allocation of budget funds from District Governments, individual cantonal governments and cities and municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to finance mine action for 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided updated information in its Article 7 Report on financial commitments to implementation for the current reporting period and would welcome information in this regard (Action #1).
13. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that its mine action strategy 2018-2025 includes the 17 f sustainable development goals. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome annual updates on its efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and humanitarian response plans (Action #1).

14. Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported on the integration of mine action with the Ministry of Security, and the Civil Aviation Directorate and that its Mine Action Strategy (2018-2025) includes Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Action #6).
15. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that its work plan and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The Committee would welcome further information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to consider gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in the development of its work plans as well as in ongoing work to achieve completion of its obligations under Article 5 (Action #3).
16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that it has not developed plans to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion of its Article 5. The Committee would welcome further updated information in this regard in accordance with Action #26.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation (OAP Actions #5, #9, #27)

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that an update of its National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) is currently underway to comply with current IMAS. The Committee would welcome further information from Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding its efforts to ensure that its NMAS reflect the latest methodologies in line with IMAS including a timeline for this process (Action #5).
18. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that it has an information management system in place since 1997 and is recognised and prescribed by the national law on demining. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that in order to enable real time communication and access data from the field it will move to a new information system based on IMSMA Core expected to be operational by October 2023 (Action #9).
19. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including by a continued process of data collection, processing and analysis in order to improve the effectiveness of mine action (Action #27).

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

20. The Committee recalled that in granting Bosnia and Herzegovina's request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit updated information on several matters. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided updated information on the following;
 - Progress in implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025;
 - 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; and
 - Update on efforts by Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen national coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress, challenges and support for implementation of their obligations under the Convention (e.g. establishing

an appropriate national platform for regular dialogue among all stakeholders) and the results of these efforts.

21. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided updated information on the following;

- Progress of land release activities relative to the commitments given in Bosnia and Herzegovina's annual work plans, disaggregated in a manner consistent with the International Mine Action Standards;
- Adjusted milestones including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;
- 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;
- Progress on efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion; and
- Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for 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.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (OAP Actions #28-32)

22. Action #32 of the OAP requests States to report on mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes in their Article 7 reports, including the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age. The Committee observed that, while Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the methodologies used, and the challenges faced, Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided information in its Article 7 report on the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age and would welcome further information in this regard.

23. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education into the education system, as well as integration of risk education into humanitarian projects to help migrants. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported the integration of mine risk education with ongoing mine action (Action #28).

24. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes to all affected populations and groups at risk, adapted to different age groups and are gender sensitive based on data obtained from general assessments or an analysis of recent mine accidents (Action #29).

25. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to analyse mine suspected areas and accidents and that priorities are set for mine risk education programmes based on the needs and habits of the local population and the mine situation, including at-risk groups of farmers, hunters, loggers, and children (Action #30).

26. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to develop a systemic solution for mine risk education in the education system and that in the event that previously unknown mined areas in

these endangered communities are discovered, warning methods have already been developed including the marking of suspected areas and presentations adapted to habits, age and are gender sensitive (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

27. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had provided information on challenges in implementing the Convention, including a lack of financial resources, a lack of function minefield records, the need for greater political will, legislation, and cooperation and assistance, including the need for national representatives in key donor agencies. (Action #8).

he Oslo Action Plan country reporting tracker
Article 5 Implementation
Bosnia and Herzegovina
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#1	# States Parties that report, having included Convention implementation activities in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, where appropriate						
	% mine-affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention						
#2	% mine-affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place						
#3	% affected States Parties whose national work plans and strategies integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account						
	# women in States Parties' delegations attending Convention meetings						
#5	% States Parties that have updated their national standards to address new challenges and ensure the employment of best practices, taking into consideration the latest IMAS						
#6	# States Parties that report having included mine action related activities within their humanitarian response plans, peacebuilding, development or human rights plans, where relevant						
#8	# States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting						
	# States Parties that report on progress and challenges during formal and informal meetings						
#9	% States Parties that report having a sustainable national information management system in place						

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#18	% affected States Parties that have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline no later than the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties in 2021 (and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 19MSP)						
	% affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men						The Committee would welcome additional information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to report on having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men.
#19	% affected States Parties presenting work plans for the implementation of Article 5 by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (and MSPs thereafter and by each year thereafter if not all affected States Parties have done so by 18MSP)						
#20	# affected States Parties that have reported annual updates and adjusted milestones to their national work plans in their 30 April transparency reports						The Committee would welcome additional information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to annually update their national work plans based on new evidence and report on adjusted milestones in their Article 7 reports by 30 April each year, including information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established.
	# States Parties that have fulfilled their obligations under Article 5						
#21	# States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature (for the purpose of this indicator: survey, clear and report)						
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						The Committee would welcome additional information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to report on its remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.
	% of affected States Parties providing survey and clearance data in Article 5 extension requests and Article 7 reports that disaggregates by type of contamination						

#23	% extension requests that include detailed, costed and multi-year work plans for the extension period						
	% extension requests that are submitted in accordance with the process established by the States Parties						
#24	% extension requests that include appropriate plans for risk education and reduction activities						
#25	% States Parties that have completed their Article 5 obligations and that submit voluntary declarations of completion						
#26	% affected States Parties that include provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans						The Committee would welcome additional information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas following completion of its Article 5.
	% affected States Parties that report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address the discovery of previously unknown mined areas						
	% States Parties that discover previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, that apply the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties						
#27	# States Parties that report promoting research, application and sharing of innovative technological means						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION

Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 9 August)
#28	% affected States Parties that report having included mine risk education and reduction programmes in their humanitarian response and protection plans and/or development plans, as well as in their mine action plans, where relevant						
#29	% affected States Parties that report having mine risk education and reduction programmes for all affected populations in place						
	% States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction activities that collect, analyse and report data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs						

#30	# States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes	■		■			
#31	# States Parties that provide risk education and reduction programmes to affected communities in the case that previously unknown mined areas are discovered			■			
#32	# States Parties reporting on their mine risk education and other risk reduction programmes and results	■	■	■			

