

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION (Colombia, France (Chair), Iraq, and Sweden)

Intersessional Meetings 19 – 21 June 2023

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

I. Progress in implementation (OAP Action #8, #21, #22)

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2022 it released 52.74 square kilometres, including 3.61 square kilometres cancelled, and 49.13 square kilometres reduced, and cleared, destroying a total of 153 anti-personnel mines and 5,569 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that 23 mine suspected areas (MSA)¹ were completed measuring 46,496,731 square metres, including 38.10 square kilometres cancelled, 8.26 square kilometres reduced and 0.91 square kilometres cleared, in the process destroying 3,180 anti-personnel mines and 468 items of unexploded ordnance.
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported the targeted and systematic investigation of MSAs measuring 12 square kilometres was completed.
4. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, improvised mines "Goraždanka" and "Čapljinka" and that their detection via standardised methods of demining is not an issue. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination (Action #21).
5. The Committee observed that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided in its 2020 extension request. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 extension request. The Committee welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed, using the guide to reporting, in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and by type of contamination (Action #8, Action #22).

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

6. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided some clarity² concerning its remaining challenge (Action #18). Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a remaining challenge of 7,287

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina has indicated that a mine suspected areas is: "An area made up of SHAs and CHAs which encompasses one or more impacted communities and due to economic, cultural or geographical and other reasons is selected as a logical unit...MSA represents an organizational task for a demining organization".

² "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.

mined areas measuring 869,610,000 square metres, including 690 confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) measuring 18,166,578 square metres and 6,597 suspected hazardous areas (SHA) measuring 851,443,442 square metres (Action #22).

7. The Committee welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting information in a manner consistent with IMAS, disaggregating by SHA and CHA and their relative size (Action #22).
8. Action #18 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) requests States that have not yet done so to 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. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that its efforts in implementation are based on gender equality and diversity and consider the needs of people in affected communities (Action #18).

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

10. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina has in place a national evidence based and costed strategy for the period, 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 extension that projected to address 142.4 square kilometres annually for the period, 2021-2025 (Action #2).
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 Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided information in its Article 7 Report on its efforts in implementation of Action #1 and would welcome further information in this regard.
13. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to include Convention implementation activities in national development plans, including 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 #1, Action #6).
14. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered, including that its work plan and mine action plan are based on gender equality and diversity and consider the needs of people in affected communities (Action #3).
15. 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 obligations. The Committee would welcome further updated information in this regard (Action #26).

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

16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to keep national mine action standards (NMAS) up to date, including that it commenced amendments and annexes for all chapters of its NMAS. The Committee welcomes the update from Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome further information on the timeline for the development and approval of the updated national standards (Action #5).
17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system, including that it has had information management system in place since 1997 and is recognised and prescribed by the national law on demining. Bosnia and Herzegovina also 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).
18. 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 of progress to apply lessons learned to the conduct of mine action (Action #27).

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

19. In considering 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;
 - 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;
 - 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.
20. The Committee would welcome updated information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the following decisions of the 18MSP;
 - 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;
- 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.

21. The Committee recalled that in considering Bosnia and Herzegovina's request, the 18MSP had requested that Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit by 30 April 2023 an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee observed that, as of 1 June 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina has not submitted an updated work plan in line with the decision of the 18MSP. The Committee would welcome information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the status of the updated work plan.

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 had reported on the results achieved with information disaggregated by gender and age, Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided information in its Article 7 report on the methodologies used, the challenges faced, and would welcome further information in this regard.
23. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education into wider efforts, including 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 with all affected groups based on their needs and levels of threat, with presentations and material adapted to various age and gender-sensitive groups, according to data from recent general assessment projects or mine accidents (Action #29).
25. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to prioritise people most at risk, including on an analysis of mine suspect areas and accidents, identifying farmers, hunters and forest workers as well as children as target groups (Action #30).
26. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to build national capacities, including integration of mine awareness in the school curricula. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that in the case of previously unknown areas being identified, the mine awareness methods through mine action are set, including marking, and delivery of specific presentations adapted to habits, age and gender (Action #31).

VII. Challenges in implementation (OAP Action #8)

27. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided quality information on challenges in implementation; including a lack of financial means, the size of the problem, non-functional minefield records and prevailing climate conditions.

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 28 July)
#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						The Committee would welcome additional information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to 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						The Committee welcomes the update from Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome further information on the timeline for the development and approval of the updated national standards
#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						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Additional information requested from the Committee (deadline 28 July)
#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						
#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)						The Committee welcomed the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to apply all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination
#22	% of affected States Parties reporting on the remaining challenge and progress made in accordance with IMAS						
	% 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 28 July)
#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						The Committee observed that while Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported on the results achieved with information disaggregated by gender and age, Bosnia and Herzegovina had not provided information in its Article 7 report on the



methodologies used, the challenges faced, and would welcome further information in this regard.

