

Inersessional Meetings

17 – 20 June 2025 Geneva



Statement - Mine Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr President

Size of mine suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 807 km², which is approximately 1.5% of the total country size.

Based on a more precise understanding of the remaining challenge, and in accordance with Article 5, Para 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina requested and achieved a six (6) years extension request from **01 March 2021 to 01 March 2027**.

Since the beginning of the technical survey and mine clearance operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996 and continuing through 2024, 3.359 km² has been released for safe use. A total of 75.806 anti-personnel mines, 8.834 anti-tank mines, and 71.634 pieces of unexploded ordnance (ERW) were found and destroyed.

In order to better prepare the requirements, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared two documents at the request of the Council of Ministers. These documents analyze data from the last 25 years of mine action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and include a proposal for an extension of the deadline, with several possible scenarios depending on the fulfillment of the preconditions we have analyzed and assumed.

The main reasons for failure to perform obligations relate to the following:

- Insufficient funding for the execution of mine action/demining,
- Lack of legislation,
- Insufficient human resources,
- Insufficient material resources and technical equipment

Remaining challenges,

According to estimations as of May 2025, the suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 804 km², presenting a 1,50 percent in relation to the total area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mine suspected areas by administrative level are shown in the table.

Extension of the deadline as per Article 5. of the Convention

The Mine Action Centre BiH has developed a comprehensive plan for completing the demining process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina for adoption. This plan defines the key conditions to be fulfilled in order to expedite and complete the demining process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Speeding up the process in Bosnia and Herzegovina will require greater financial resources and a higher level of engagement from all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including local communities, in financing mine action. It is also necessary to address the issues related to human resources, material resources, and technical equipment, while enhancing engagement, productivity, and effectiveness of demining capacities at both the state and entity levels.

Analyses to date show that three scenarios can be predicted:

First: All conditions necessary for speeding up the demining process in BiH have been met

Second: The conditions for speeding up the demining process in BiH have been partially met

Third: Mine action is taking place under current circumstances

Planned activities for fulfilling the obligations in the extension period

In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina started to implement project of EU Pre-Accession assistance (IPAIII) in the sum of 10 million EUR.

A demining project is expected by the beginning of 2025, of the right Sava riverbank, amounting to 8 million EUR. The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and transport, and the World Bank.

The concept of addressing the mine problem through the resolution of issues in entire local communities or areas with multiple communities through collaboration has proven to be effective. These are multi-year projects, and we are already seeing the first results. In 2025, we declared the Brčko District, as well as the municipalities of Čelić and Vukosavlje, mine-free.

Assistance necessary for the completion of demining in BiH

It is important that demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina relies on domestic resources for financing, to reduce dependence on donors. In this regard, it is necessary to engage all levels of authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina and local communities in funding mine action and demining efforts in the country. However, demining is a process that no country can complete, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, without assistance from foreign donors and international institutions.

We would like to express our gratitude for the assistance offered so far, as Bosnia and Herzegovina would not be able to achieve progress without it. We would like to emphasize the key role and significance of donor assistance in the period to come.

Thank You Mr President



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Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Progress and reasons for failure to perform obligations

Since the beginning of the technical survey and mine clearance operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996 and continuing through 2024, 3.359 km² has been released for safe use. A total of 75.806 anti-personnel mines, 8.834 anti-tank mines, and 71.634 pieces of unexploded ordnance (ERW) were found and destroyed.

The reasons for failure to perform obligations relate to the following:

- Insufficient funding for the execution of mine action/demining,
- Lack of legislation,
- Insufficient human resources,
- Insufficient material resources and technical equipment.

Remaining challenges

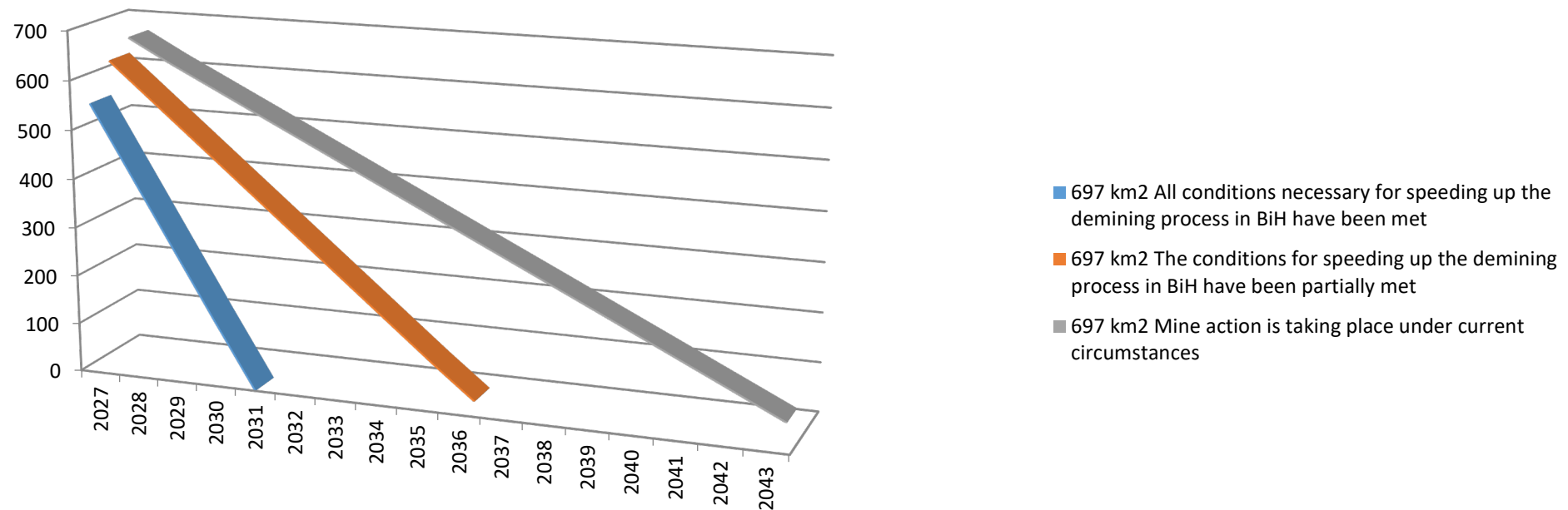
According to estimations as of May 2025, the suspect area in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 804 km², presenting a 1,50 percent in relation to the total area of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Administrative level	I Category km ²	II Category km ²	III Category km ²	Total km ²
Unsko-sanski	34,05	31,82	19,15	85,02
Posavski	2,98	9,10	1,81	13,89
Tuzlanski	11,58	12,84	33,82	58,30
Zeničko-dobojski	25,98	11,48	74,71	112,17
Bosansko-podrinjski	2,39	7,86	32,22	42,48
Srednjobosanski	20,11	36,27	42,99	99,38
Hercegovačko Neretvanski	11,06	22,22	93,31	126,59
Zapadnohercegovački	0,00	0,00	0,20	0,20
Sarajevski	14,66	9,91	23,67	48,25
Canton 10	7,28	10,62	42,69	60,59
Federation BiH	130,10	152,19	364,58	646,87
Brčko District BiH	0	0	0	0
Republic of Srpska	51,97	51,94	53,28	157,19
Total				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	182,07	204,13	417,86	804,06

Extension of the deadline as per Article 5. of the Convention

- The Mine Action Centre BiH has developed a comprehensive plan for completing the demining process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina for adoption.
- This plan defines the key conditions to be fulfilled in order to expedite and complete the demining process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Speeding up the process in Bosnia and Herzegovina will require greater financial resources and a higher level of engagement from all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including local communities, in financing mine action. It is also necessary to address the issues related to human resources, material resources, and technical equipment, while enhancing engagement, productivity, and effectiveness of demining capacities at both the state and entity levels.

Extension of the deadline as per Article 5. of the Convention



Planned activities for fulfilling the obligations in the extension period

- The program IPA 2021 – IPA III pre-accession assistance from the EU of €10 million for 81 km².
- Demining of the right bank of the River Sava encompasses 73 projects covering an area of 5.07 km², financed by the EU with mediation from the World Bank, totaling €8 million.
- Project „Release of the area contaminated by mines and other explosive ordnance left from the war in BiH”, Majevisa Region 2022-2024, covers the area of 27.40 km².
- Project for the Srebrenica and Bratunac region, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Norway, 7,61km².
- Implementation of projects funded by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, 2 million KM (2025, 2026, and 2027)
- Continuous assessment to enhance the efficiency of mine action, evaluating activities carried out to implement them more effectively and swiftly.
- Taking all measures and activities within the framework of jurisdiction to engage all available demining resources.
- Active participation in international meetings to exchange experiences and consider the resolution of technical and managerial issues.
- Information system is fully based on IMSMA Core technology.

Assistance necessary for the completion of demining in BiH

- It is important that demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina relies on domestic resources for financing, to reduce dependence on donors. In this regard, it is necessary to engage all levels of authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina and local communities in funding mine action and demining efforts in the country.
- However, demining is a process that no country can complete, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, without assistance from foreign donors and international institutions.
- We would like to express our gratitude for the assistance offered so far, as Bosnia and Herzegovina would not be able to achieve progress without it. We would like to emphasize the key role and significance of donor assistance in the period to come.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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