

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

**COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTATION
(Thailand (Chair), United Kingdom, Algeria, Norway)**

**Intersessional Meetings
17 – 20 June 2025**

I. Progress in implementation (Action 8, 20, 22)

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2024 it released a total of 6 Mine Suspected Areas (MSA)¹, measuring 5,259,746 square metres, including 3,355,270 square metres cancelled, 1,842,991 square metres reduced, and 79,891 square metres cleared, destroying 429 anti-personnel mines and 158 items of unexploded ordnance.
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported releasing 10.172 square kilometres on individual tasks, including 8.67 square kilometres cancelled, 1.41 square kilometres reduced, and 0.092 square kilometres cleared, destroying 574 anti-personnel mines, 21 anti-tank mines, and 403 items of unexploded ordnance.
3. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported to be affected by anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature, "Goraždanka" and "Čapljinka" and that their detection is possible through standardised methods of demining. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina applying all provisions and obligations under the Convention to such contamination.
4. The Committee observed that the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with its 2023 updated work plan. The Committee observed that progress in implementation was less than that projected in the workplan. The Committee welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina providing information on progress in accordance with land release methodology employed in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and disaggregated by type of contamination. The Committee further welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina employing the Guide to Reporting in the drafting of its annual Article 7 report.

II. Remaining challenge (Action 17, 20, 22)

5. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a high degree of clarity² concerning its remaining challenge. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the number of active minefield records as of December 2024 is 8,673. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a remaining challenge of 459 mine suspected areas measuring 822,595,274 square metres in 112 towns/municipalities of 3 counties, including Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) measuring 164,519,054 square meters, and Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) measuring 658,076,220 square meters.

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 High degree of clarity" has been used when a State Party has provided a list of: All remaining areas (known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines), the estimated size of each area, the status of each area (i.e., "known" or "suspected"), and information on the geographic location of each area.

6. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported 286 individual projects measuring 13,615,232 square metres remaining to be addressed.
7. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue to provide updated information and clarity concerning remaining challenges in a manner consistent with IMAS and disaggregated by SHAs and CHAs in line with Action 22.
8. Action 17 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) requests States Parties 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 on its efforts to establish inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys and men through promoting inclusive practices and community involvement, including, gender inclusion, ethnic and language diversity, community engagement, training and awareness and inclusive decision making.

III. National plans for clearance and survey (Action 1-3, 18-21)

10. Bosnia and Herzegovina's reported that it had in place a National Mine Action Strategy for the period (2018-2025). Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that the revision of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Mine Action Strategy (2018-2025) was completed in 2024 for the period (2025-2027). The Committee welcomed the information from Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome updated information on the process and timeline for approving the revised the strategy.
11. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in January 2025 the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) drafted a Demining Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2025, that directs humanitarian demining under Article 16 of the Demining Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette BiH", no: 5/02). Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that, as per the stipulations set in Articles 16 and 20 of the Law, following approval and adoption by the Council of Ministers, the BHMIC will immediately implement the Demining Plan.
12. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina in its updated workplan submitted in 2025 included an evidence based and costed plan for clearance and survey for the period 2025-2026. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including information on the amount of area to be addressed annually and on how priorities have been established. Bosnia and Herzegovina projects to address 75,000,000 square metres for the period 2025-2026, including cancellation of 60,000,000 square metres, reduction of 13,500,000 square metres, and clearance of 1,500,000 square metres.
13. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to ensure that survey and clearance are prioritised based on clear nationally-driven humanitarian and sustainable development criteria, including a system of priority-based planning, where areas are ranked through a priority list adopted by entity governments in accordance with the Demining Law and local mine action coordinators. Each SHA is given a risk level, and priorities are updated according to field changes and community needs based on the following criteria; humanitarian, socio-economic, safety and security, and accessibility and operational factors.

14. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated workplan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to integrate Convention implementation activities into national development plans, strategies and budgets, including through integration with sustainable development goals, contributing to the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership.

15. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity, and that while it still has no legal framework for sustainable national capacity to respond to unknown mined areas after the fulfilment of Article 5, it has national capacities that would be prepared to take on this task following completion. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that it will begin considering what a sustainable national capacity would look like. The Committee welcomed the information and would welcome updated information on the timeline and process for the establishment of a sustainable national capacity.

IV. Efficient implementation, innovative approaches, methods, and technological means (Action 4, 9, 25)

16. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to keep national standards up to date, including the revision of three existing chapters of national standards (NMAS) in 2024 on land release, and accreditation, and reported the creation of a fourth chapter on Quality Management.

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to establish and maintain a national information management system containing accurate and up-to-date data at the national level on the status of implementation, including the introduction of IMSMA Core, and functionality migration to a new information management system was underway. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that training materials were also to be developed for staff training in ArcGIS Pro and other tools of the new database environment, with the goal of conducting comprehensive testing of the system with all relevant BHMALC personnel.

18. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated workplan contained information on a strategic goal to form the Information Management Unit, adequately staff it, and train the employees by the end of 2026.

19. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance, including through the continued processes of gathering, processing and analysis of information to improve effectiveness in mine action through improved mine threat assessment. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported on the use of drones within the project "Country assessment of suspected hazardous areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which allows for more efficient, faster, and safer data collection about contaminated areas, reducing the risk to surveyors and improving the precision of operations.

20. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts through improved information management, for efficient and effective planning, priority setting, tasking, and conduct of the activities.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them (Action 23)

21. In considering Bosnia and Herzegovina's request, the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) requested Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit updated information on an annual basis on several matters. The Committee welcomed the information provided in follow-up to the decision of the 18MSP.

22. The Committee would welcome updated information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the following decisions of the 18MSP;

- 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.

23. 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 and 30 April 2025 an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had acted on the decisions of the 18MSP by submitting updated work plans accordingly.

VI. Mine risk education and reduction (Action 18, 23, 26-29)

24. Action 18 of the SRAAP requests States Parties to develop evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey, clearance, and mine risk education as soon as possible and in an inclusive manner. These should include projections of the number of mined areas, size, and amount to be addressed annually, ensuring consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and the environment to achieve completion as soon as possible. National work plans will be updated annually based on new evidence. The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to develop a work plan for mine risk education. The Committee would welcome updated information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts in this regard.

25. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to prioritise mine risk education programmes, including current preparation of a national mine action standard on risk education in line with IMAS. The Committee would welcome updated information on the timeline and process of approval for the national standard on mine risk education.

26. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on the inclusion of Mine Risk Education as Strategic Goal 4 in the revised mine action strategy. The Committee welcomes the information from Bosnia and Herzegovina and would welcome updated information on the process and timeline for the drafting of the new NMAS.

27. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported how priorities are established, including on analysis of accidents, needs and habits of population groups in mine-affected areas, children, and migrant groups. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported on methodologies used, including public information campaigns, educational programs in schools, and community engagement initiatives. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported on results achieved disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.

28. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to integrate mine risk education and risk reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection as within survey, clearance activities, including specific mine risk education activities integrated into humanitarian projects for migrants accommodated in humanitarian camps or transit through Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that efforts involve a coordinated approach between government agencies, NGOs, media, and local communities, and that by integrating MRE into education, using media for outreach, and providing emergency response systems, Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to reduce the risks posed by landmines and ensure the safety of its citizens.

29. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to provide context-specific mine risk education and reduction programmes that are tailored to the threat encountered by the population and prioritise people most at risk by ensuring that these programmes are developed on an analysis of available casualty and contamination data.

30. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to establish a sustainable national capacity to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes, including cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Science to integrate gender-sensitive and age-sensitive mine/ERW education activities into curricula to reduce risk, raise awareness of the threat presented by mines/ERW, and promote safe behaviour.

VI. Best Practices in implementation (Action 5, 6, 18)

31. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of women, girls, boys and men in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation to ensure that the unique needs and experiences of all community members are acknowledged and addressed, including the following factors; gender inclusion, ethnic and language diversity, community engagement, training and awareness, inclusive decision-making.

32. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to ensure the integration of environmental consideration into its implementation including consideration for IMAS 07.13 adopted in July 2024. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that while it does not have an NMAS on environmental management, existing demining procedures (e.g. methods for vegetation removal, removal of metals and waste, and use of machinery) generally contribute to environmental management and protection, and that in certain cases, modifications are made to safeguard the environment, and local communities are consulted during the approval of demining plans.

33. Bosnia and Herzegovina further reported that threshing machines are banned in agricultural areas due to soil disturbance and compaction, and machines are not used on mountain pastures to protect against removal of layers of grasses, and that in forests, as part of procedures to ensure the use of metal detectors at the required height, BHMAL consults landowners to make decisions about vegetation removal and tree preservation. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that an environmental study on the project – "The demining of the River Sava right bank" is in preparation and will be published upon completion.

VIII. International Cooperation and Assistance (Action 40-42, 45)

34. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's annual national financial contribution towards implementation, including an allocation of KM \$5,945 million in 2018, to KM \$7,566,000 in 2023.

35. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's resource mobilisation strategy, included under Strategic Goal 2 of its new mine action strategy, and that BHMAL will create a plan for the mobilization of resources, which includes an evaluation of the influx of money, to promote the commitment of the country towards the program and its sustainability, with the mobilisation of funds to be conducted continuously from national and international resources, to keep the existing donors, and bring in new ones.

36. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its efforts to strengthen national level coordination including by ensuring regular dialogue with national and international stakeholders on progress and challenges in implementation and requirements for assistance, including the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Demining Commission and BHMIC promoting regular meetings with donors and key actors, with BHMIC ensuring the availability of accurate and updated mine action information, analysed and disseminated to donors and other interested parties two meetings per year on risk education, and Ministries of education and Science for the integration of risk education in school curricula.
37. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to explore opportunities for international, regional, and bilateral cooperation, including operational and technical cooperation in the area of clearance, information management, and mine risk education. The updated workplan also contained information on the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), with a project for water management among the countries in the basin of the Sava and Drina Rivers planned, and demining of the right bank of the Sava River is set as the first precondition for any activity on the river. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported participating in the first workshop organized with Azerbaijan State Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA), under the European Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument, a first event bringing together mine action experts from EU Member States and ANAMA, as part of a wider European Union effort to support humanitarian demining in Azerbaijan, amongst other regional and international cooperation.

IX. Challenges in implementation (Action 29, 41)

38. The Committee recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2025 updated work plan contained information on challenges in implementation, including incomplete minefield records, difficult terrain and safety risks, lack of financial resources, insufficient number of staff to ensure full operational capacity of the BHMIC, renewal of material-technical equipment and vehicles, training for newly employed staff, as well as continuous capacity building for existing staff.

The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan country reporting tracker

Article 5 Implementation

Bosnia and Herzegovina

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Actio ns	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#1	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors.						
#2	Percentage of affected States Parties reporting having sustainable national capacities in place able to coordinate, regulate, and manage the national mine action programme including survey, clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance and undertake post completion activities, including management of residual risk.						
#3	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.						The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to report having evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national strategies and work plans in place.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having reviewed and updated their national strategies and work plan based on new evidence.						
#4	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having up-to-date National Mine Action Standards in place in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.						
#5	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities,						
#6	Percentage of affected States Parties that report integrating climate and environmental considerations into Convention implementation activities, including in their national strategies and work plans.						
#6	Percentage of States Parties that submit Article 7 reports by 30 April of each year.						
	Percentage of States Parties that prepare their Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.						
#9	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national, centrally-managed information management system in place containing up-to-date information on implementation at the national level.						

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF MINED AREAS							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#17	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.						The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to report having established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline, including in areas affected by improvised anti-personnel mines in line with IMAS.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a baseline through inclusive consultations.						
#16	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in their Article 7 reports updates to their national work plans, including adjusted milestones based on new evidence, including budgets for implementation, and requirements for assistance						
#19	Number of affected States Parties that report on the inclusion of humanitarian and sustainable development criteria in survey, clearance, planning, and prioritisation.						
	Number of affected States Parties that report on the consideration of inclusion of gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, climate, and environment in survey and clearance planning and prioritisation.						
#20	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature including in survey and clearance operations under Article 5.						The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature including in survey and clearance operations under Article 5.
	Number of affected States Parties that apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to reporting obligations under Article 7.						The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to apply the provisions of the Convention to anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature to reporting obligations under Article 7.
#21	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a national capacity in place to implement the Convention and address any previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas discovered following completion.						
	Number of States Parties that following completion, report the discovery of previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas.						
#22	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on their remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.						The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to report on their remaining challenge in a manner disaggregated by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size.

	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress made to address mined areas in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance).						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report in a disaggregated manner by type of contamination.						
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for survey and clearance.						
	Percentage of extension requests submitted that ensure consideration for gender, age, disability, the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities including mine survivors, as well as climate, and the environment.						
#24	Number of affected States Parties that declare completion of their Article 5 obligations.						
	Percentage of these States Parties that submit voluntary Declarations of Completion.						
#25	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						The Committee would welcome further information on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to report on efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on research, analysis, and the adoption of innovative approaches, methods, and technological means to improve effectiveness and efficiency of survey and clearance.						

MINE RISK EDUCATION AND REDUCTION							
Actio ns	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
#18	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having in place evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education;						The Committee would welcome further information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on its efforts to have in place an evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and time-bound national work plans for mine risk education.
#23	Percentage of extension requests submitted that include detailed, evidence-based, costed, context-specific, and multi-year plans for risk education activities.						
#26	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having integrated mine risk education and reduction programmes within wider plans for humanitarian response and protection, development, health, mental health, climate, the environment, education, and/or disaster risk reduction or other relevant plans; as well as within survey, clearance and victim assistance activities.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on efforts to reduce the affected population's risk-taking behaviour and to increase knowledge and awareness.						
#27	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established an evidence-based priority-setting mechanism for mine risk education and reduction programmes tailored to the threat encountered by the population and which prioritises people most at risk.						
#28	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having sustainable national capacities in place to deliver mine risk education and reduction programmes in case previously unknown mined areas or newly mined areas are discovered and/or in emergency settings.						

#29	Percentage of affected States Parties that report carrying out mine risk education and reduction programmes including information on how priorities are established, methodologies used (e.g. interpersonal, mass, or digital media), challenges faced, and results achieved and included information disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.					
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information requested from the Committee
40	Percentage of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to the implementation of survey and clearance;						
	Percentage of States Parties that report on exploring all possible sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative sources and mechanisms of funding or that report having innovative financial projects in place.						
41	Percentage of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.						
42	Percentage of affected States Parties that report efforts to strengthen national coordination with national and international stakeholders and States Parties in a position to provide assistance.						
	Percentage of affected States Parties that report having established a National Mine Action Platform.						
45	Number of States Parties that report sharing national experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt through international, regional, and bilateral cooperation.						
	Number of States Parties that report sharing scientific, methodological, and technological expertise to strengthen the Convention's implementation.						

