



Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Concept Note

Background

Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Convention on 3 December 1997, and ratified it on 8 September 1998, with the Convention entering into force for Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 March 1999. In this initial transparency report submitted in February 2000, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the presence of mine areas under its jurisdiction or control. Even prior to the Convention entering into force, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been working to clear its national territory of the threat of anti-personnel mines. In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these areas as soon as possible but not later than 1 March 2009.

Despite these efforts, Bosnia and Herzegovina has a significant remaining challenge to address. Due to different reported circumstances, Bosnia and Herzegovina has had to make use of the extension request process of the Convention on three separate occasions. The last request for extension of its deadline was submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2020 which was granted by the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties for six years until 1 March 2027. With the deadline approaching, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be required to submit a request for a further extension by 31 March 2026 for consideration by the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties later this year.

The national dialogue will provide a platform for Bosnia and Herzegovina to share progress made since the last extension request period, raise awareness of the challenges faced and present the new work plan. The National Stakeholder Dialogue will also provide space for discussion on the implications of the new national mine action law and standards, reflections on the plans for survey, clearance and mine risk education for the extension period, status of information management, considerations related to sustaining capacities in mine-free regions, and victim assistance provisions. This will support the BHMIC in preparing a comprehensive, accurate, and well-informed extension request, drawing on the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders including affected communities.

The Dialogue is supported by the European Union and with financial support from a global project¹ adopted by the Council of the European Union in support of the recently adopted Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029 and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Participation and expected outcomes

The EUCD seeks to support an engaged dialogue where Bosnia and Herzegovina can clearly address the above mentioned objectives with stakeholders including those representing mine action donors, national and international mine clearance organisations, UN agencies, and civil society.

The Dialogue aims to bring together demining programme stakeholders and partners to strengthen collaboration, present feedback from national stakeholders on the draft extension request that Bosnia and Herzegovina will submit for consideration by the States Parties and help shape a comprehensive path toward

¹ COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2025/781 of 14 April 2025

completing Article 5 implementation. Held over two days and structured around presentations and targeted breakout discussions, the Dialogue will provide Bosnia and Herzegovina with an opportunity to reflect on recommendations and identify actions that will support the successful implementation of its mine clearance programme.

Expected outcomes and follow ups

- Through the Dialogue, Bosnia and Herzegovina would socialize its draft request for an extended mine clearance deadline and receive inputs from all stakeholders, incorporating this information into its national mine plan for implementation of Article 5.
- After the dialogue, Bosnia and Herzegovina would be in a position to produce a detailed outcome document highlighting,
 - a. geographically specific information on remaining areas requiring survey and clearance;
 - b. methodologies to address remaining areas;
 - c. mine risk education and reduction efforts and challenges;
 - d. victim assistance efforts and challenges;
 - e. challenges faced in fulfilling its mine clearance obligation and stakeholder's recommendations to address them;
 - f. objectives and milestones to address identified challenges; and,
 - g. recommendations for further action(s).
- Through this Dialogue and outcome document, Bosnia and Herzegovina would gain additional understandings on to strengthen implementation of key aspects of the Convention, particularly on matters related to the implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitments under Article 5, and contribute to the development of a high quality extension request.



Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Programme | Sarajevo, 17-18 February 2026

Day One | Tuesday, 17 February | 08:30 – 18:00

08:30-09:30 Registration

Opening of the Meeting | High-level Segment | 09:30-10:30

Panellists:

- H.E. Dubravka Bošnjak, Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Mohammed Meraimi, Ambassador of Algeria to Bosnia and Herzegovina in representation of the Convention and Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
- Mr. Adebayo Babajide, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Željko Volaš, Chairman of the Association of Amputees, UDAS

10:30 – 11:00 Pause for high-level delegates to leave - group photo with high level delegates; (Coffee break)

International context and expectations for the Dialogue | 11:00-11:40

Panellists:

- Enis Horozović, Director of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Juan Carlos Ruan, Director, AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit
- Rula Daoud, Research, Mine Action Review

Discussion Q&A

National Progress and Remaining Challenge in the implementation of Article 5 | 11:50-13:00

Panellists:

- Enis Horozović, Director of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Tarik Šerak, Operations, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Amir Omerdić, Mine Risk Education and Reduction, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Dragana Gligorić, Gender and Diversity, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre

Discussion Q&A

Lunch | 13:00 – 14:00

Presentation on Draft Plan for the Extension Period | 14:15 - 15:30

Panellists:

- Tarik Šerak, Operations, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Amir Omerdić, Mine Risk Education and Reduction, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Vljeko Cvjetković, Operations, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Milijana Drinjak, Finance and Planning Mine Action

Discussion Q&A

Key challenges and operational realities confronted to be considered and continued socioeconomic impact | 15: 40 - 16:30

Panellists:

- Irfan Pehlić, Head of BHM MAC Regional Office, Tuzla
- Esed Aletić, Head of BHM MAC Regional Office, Brčko
- Boris Đukić, Head of BHM MAC Regional Office, Banja Luka
- Aladin Barjaktarević, Head of BHM MAC Regional Office, Bihać
- Josip Mravak, Head of BHM MAC Regional Office, Sarajevo
- Ivo Marković, NGO Posavina bez mina
- Danijel Đurić, Brčko District

Discussion Q&A

BHM MAC official(s) participate(s) in open discussions with stakeholders | Breakout groups | 16: 40-17:30
(Discussion questions to be provided)

| Moderator Group 1: **Mirjana Marić** | Moderator Group 2: **Tarik Šerak** | Moderator Group 3: **Amir Omerdić**

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- In addition to the national authorities, stakeholders are invited to share their perspectives, ideas and experiences and formulate recommendations (and/or priority actions) that could further assist BiH in developing its extension request.
- Groups are encouraged to interact with BiH's work plan within their extension request, and methodologies to address remaining areas as well as obstacles and challenges they see in achieving the proposed work plan.

Feedback/key points from the groups on breakout discussions on status of remaining contamination and challenges

Discussion Q&A | Chair: Head of BHM MAC office | Plenary | 17: 30 – 17:50

End of day conclusions -- set up day #2 | Evaluation day 1 | 17:50-18:00



**Strengthening Understanding and Implementation of the Convention on
Anti-Personnel Mines by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Day Two | Wednesday, 18 February | 09:30 – 18:00

BHMAC official(s) participate(s) in open discussions with stakeholders | Breakout groups |
(Discussion questions to be provided)

| Moderator Group 1: **Mirjana Marić** | Moderator Group 2: **Tarik Šerak** | Moderator Group 3: **Amir Omerdić**
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Feedback/key points from the groups on breakout discussions on status of remaining contamination and challenges

Discussion Q&A | Chair: Head of BHMAC office | Plenary | 09:30 – 10:30

Partnership in Mine Risk Education | 10:30 – 11:45

Panellists:

- Ivana Grujić, Youth Coordinator for Mine Risk Education, CKRS
- Mirza Alibabić, IOM
- Mirza Čehajić, Pedagogical institute of Zenica
- Munira Karahodžić, Member of the team for implementing Mine Risk Education in Secondary Schools
- Džejna Skopljak, Mine risk Education Manager, EUFOR

Victim Assistance and the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan – Progress and Challenges | 11:45 – 13:00

Panellists:

- Firoz Alizada, Implementation Support Officer, Implementation Support Unit
- Oliver Soldo, Delegate in the House of Peoples - Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Amir Omerdić, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Željko Volaš, UDAS

Discussion Q&A

Lunch | 13:00-14:00

Day Two | Wednesday, 18 February | 09:30 – 18:00

Information management and Reporting in line with the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan | 14:15 – 15:00

Panellists:

- Tarik Šerak, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center
- Juan Carlos Ruan, director, Implementation Support Unit
- Firoz Alizada, Implementation Support Officer, Implementation Support Unit

Discussion Q&A

Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance to Accelerate Completion | 15:00 – 16: 15

Panellists:

- Ognjen Zekić - Demining Commission
- Enis Horozović - Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Ms Mojca Krisper-Figueroa, Team Leader, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Juan Carlos Ruan, Director, Implementation Support Unit

Discussion Q&A

Coffee break - 16:15 - 16:30

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Towards the future | 16:30-17:15

Objective: to offer a final word to participants about the way forward

- Tarik Šerak, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre
- Ms Mojca Krisper-Figueroa, Team Leader, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Svjetlana Pavlović, NGO Posavina bez mina
- Nijaz Memić, Sport club for disabled individuals
- Rula Daoud, Research, Mine Action Review
- Juan Carlos Ruan, Director, ISU: any other business / evaluation

Evaluation of seminar | 17:15 – 17:30

Closing | 17:30