

**BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA**  
Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova



**БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА**  
Министарство иностраних послова

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## ***STATEMENT***

***Of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on clearance***

***Third Review Conference of the State Parties to the APLC***

***Maputo, Mozambique***

***Maputo 23-27 June 2014***

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Mister President,

Almost 20 years after the tragic war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still working to clear landmines in the remaining hazardous area totaling 1,220 km<sup>2</sup>. Bosnia and Herzegovina remains committed to complete the goals set out by The Mine Ban Treaty, though not without unexpected difficulties.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has released 2,696 km<sup>2</sup> so far, and we are trying our best to stick to the 2019 deadline. There are gaps between the plans and performance of the mine action sector in the country. The country is two years behind schedule which emphasizes the need for the strategic management and coordination of mine action efforts to be redoubled. The recent events in Bosnia and Herzegovina have altered the situation with the landmines to the point that requires a new assessment of the strategy. The circumstances created by the recent flooding have established a state of emergency and set us even more behind the schedule. Seventy percent of the land flooded is in mine suspected areas, there have been 51 landslides in suspected hazardous areas and the floods have caused a floating mines phenomena.

The second revision of the Mine Action Strategy is scheduled to take place in 2015 to address the obstacles that limit progress. The review will show if the completion is achievable on schedule and what is required to achieve that goal.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been pressed and presented with the opportunity to pragmatically plan and further develop the next steps needed to fulfill the obligations set forth by the Mine Ban Treaty. This will further prompt the state authorities to review our current standards and SOPs so the country can tackle their remaining obligations. We therefore pledge the commitment to the following:

- Notwithstanding the possibility to request the new extension for clearance completion, Bosnia and Herzegovina will make an effort to complete its obligation from the Convention by 2019 ;

- In doing so, we are committed to endorse and implement the Land Release concept which can bring progress and would offer better value for money to the donor community;
- Our final commitment presenting a reasonable projection for the completion of all remaining obligations will be communicated by April, 2015;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina will increase its budgetary allocation so that the mine action needs are not restricted by financial deficits;

Thank you for your attention.