

**Comments on Bosnia and Herzegovina's  
Extension Request  
Intersessional Meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty  
7-8 June 2018**

We read the extension request put forward by Bosnia and Herzegovina with close attention and also considered all its annexes. Despite this close read, it remains difficult to understand what work will get done during the two-year extension period, and how this work differs from or complements what has been done in the last 19 years. We certainly want to be supportive of BHMAC and of clearance efforts in Bosnia, but the extension request does not give us the means to do so. We trust that a revised request can be submitted in the coming weeks or months, to clarify intentions and to reinforce the international community's trust in the clearance programme. We want nothing less than full success for Bosnia and we want communities to be safer as soon as possible.

***Among the positive points of the request:***

- Progress made since 2009 is presented in a disaggregated manner, stating how much contaminated land has been released through non-technical survey, survey, and clearance.
- The extension sought is only for two years – it is an interim period that aims at gaining clarity before seeking a final extension. This is excellent practice for states that are not yet in a position to reliably assess the magnitude of the efforts required towards completion.
- The socio-economic impact of landmine contamination is explained.
- The program is fully costed and the government intends to cover 50% of the budget, which is certainly a noteworthy effort.

***A revised extension request should:***

- Clearly state the extent of remaining contamination in terms of area suspected of contamination, and area where contamination is confirmed. Clearly state expected outputs for the extended period in terms of cancellation, reduction, and clearance. At the moment there are numerous aconfusing discrepancies in the request. For instance, data on page 4 does not match with data on page 6; section 3.1 does not match with Table 11; and data on page 24 does not match with Table 15. Footnote #5 brings additional confusion as to whether the database is aligned with International Mine Action Standards or not.

- Present a plan for the “Country assessment of suspected hazardous areas” from April 2018 to September 2019, as well as for the other land release activities during the extended period. The plan should state what will be done, where, when and by whom. At the moment there is no such plan in the request. Page 25 states that a timetable has been defined at the administrative level, so it would be extremely helpful if it could be shared.
- Provide information on the “Mine Action Governance and Management Project” and describe what measures are planned to re-establish donor confidence.

With regards to funding, the request makes it very clear that the country assessment is fully funded for a sum of €900,000. We wish to ask if all funds have been secured for the other activities, and if not, what resource mobilization efforts will be deployed.

Thank you.