

ICBL comments on the Extension Request by Bosnia and Herzegovina

18MSP, 16-20 November 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We want to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for submitting this extension request, as well as for providing additional clarifications in their revised request.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's third extension request is for a period of 6 years until March 2027. We regret that it goes beyond the 2025 objective for a mine free world, and we call on BiH, to ensure the success of completion, so that it will be the last extension request required.

Among the positive points in the extension request we note the following:

- The progress arising from the Country Assessment of Suspected Hazardous Areas Project and the effort towards sharing accurate data.
- Progress under the Mine Action Governance and Management Project.
- A significant proportion of the required funding will come from the national budget.

However, there are points that will still require further attention:

- The operational plan should include information on the operational capacity required to meet the projected annual targets. Given that the amount of land to be released is projected to increase significantly, BiH should provide information on whether and how it will increase its operational capacity.
- 336.2 million BAM is required to fulfill the obligations, some 45% will come from national sources and 55% from donors. BiH should clarify if all the funding is secured, or if there is a plan for resource mobilization.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina need to urgently develop a more detailed operational and finance plan for the full period of the extension request and proceed to immediate implementation.

We welcome BiH's recent engagement in the country coalition and individualized approach processes. We appeal to all relevant BiH authorities—including BHMAL, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and the long-awaited new Demining Commission members— to actively embrace these opportunities and to ensure that BiH becomes free of mines -for good - by 2027.

Thank you.