

THE FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROHIBITION ON THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION
NAIROBI, KENYA 29.11. – 03. 12. 2004.

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
03. December 2004.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

S T A T E M E N T

Delivered by

Mr. SAFET HALILOVIĆ
Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. President,
Distinguished Excellencies,
Respective Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

On the outset I would like to extend warm congratulations to Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, The President of this historical event, the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, on his strong dedication and firm leadership, which led us throughout long preparation process and remarkably through past several days to the final success and extension of further unanimous commitment to the most human aims of the Ottawa process.

Further, Bosnia and Herzegovina express its gratitude to our hosts, the Government and the people of Kenya, for their kind hospitality and to the organizers of the Conference for their dedication and provided support, enabling great achievements of this global event.

Mister President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the first signatories to the Convention and from the very beginning of its implementation, my country is fully committed to the Convention core aims - to the total ban of antipersonnel mines and challenging pursuit of conclusive end to global suffering caused by these "hidden killers".

Being fully pledged member of the Ottawa Convention greatly involved through the mechanisms of its implementation in past five years, and at the same time enduring severe consequences of mine contamination and in need of assistance, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a perfect witness to great achievements of the Ottawa process and global mine ban movement.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's significant results in past several years in process of gradually taking the ownership of overall mine action activities and building, strengthening and advancing expertise of our capacities, in introducing of respective legislative framework and generally in creating of better life conditions for our citizens, are in substantial extent results of global recognition of the Convention and broader observance of its aims and norms as well as strong support by number of international organisations and donor countries.

Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina is expressing its recognition and gratitude to number of UN agencies, in the first place to United Nations Development Fund, UNICEF and UNHCR and to all donor countries for their substantial financial, technical and expert support to our efforts in overall Mine Action processes and programmes.

Unfortunately, great challenges still remain because our country still bears deep traces of the past war, mainly reflected through heavy mine contamination.

This reality placing heavy burden on everyday lives of our people and presents serious obstacle for our further economic and social development, return of displaced people, faster achievements in poverty reduction goals and production growth.

Clearly and finally resolving this extensive mine contamination, presents a great challenge for us, but we are certain that with our continued compliance to the Convention, doubled efforts in our mine action and with further assistance of the International Donor Community, we will have a chance to achieve our final aim.

National Mine Action Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is comprehensive, realistic and concrete document that draws conclusions from our past experiences, as well as valuable survey of the present situation and internationally recognised methods of strategic planning.

We are convinced that our strategic aims are achievable by fully respecting the norms of the Ottawa Convention.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also extended its commitment to wider regional co-operation in implementation of Convention aims through Mine-Free Regions Initiative.

We completely support this initiative, decisively recognising full potential of achievable goal, to make South Eastern Europe mine free region in accordance to the aims and norms of the Ottawa Convention and with extended support of International Community having concentrated our co-operative efforts at the regional level.

Mister President,

The very idea of the Ottawa Convention is in its core very human idea and it has resulted in remarkable achievements in past five years.

Therefore Bosnia and Herzegovina is here to join collective celebration of these achievements but also to encourage even stronger commitment of all of us for total extinction of antipersonnel mines in the world, and for safer and better lives of future generations.

Thank you.