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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in Geneva and, referring to the letter dated 23 December 2015 of the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations at Geneva, as Chair of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article 5, has the honor to enclose herewith the document of the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia with clarification of observations on the implementation of Article 5 by the Republic of Serbia, including table with details on each suspected area.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 3 March 2016

***Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit  
Geneva***

## Republic of Serbia Updated Detailed Work Plan for the Remaining Period Covered by the Extension

The Republic of Serbia is a State Party of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) since 2004 and is fully committed to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention.

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, which was held in the period 2-6 December 2013, Geneva, the Republic of Serbia was granted a 5-year extension of the deadline for fulfilment of its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention. Accordingly, Serbia should fulfil its obligations before 1 March 2019.

One of major preconditions for Serbia to be granted the extension was to start funding demining operations from the national budget.

Accordingly, in 2015, the funds (100,000 EUR) for demining operations have been allocated from the Serbian State Budget for the first time. The SMAC lobbied with international donors to match these funds and enable demining operations to be conducted on a larger area. Namely, SMAC lobbied with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement to match these national funds through ITF Enhancing Human Security. Provision of these matched funds enabled implementation of the SMAC project "An integrated approach to the mine risk land release in the territory of the Municipality of Bujanovac", which included survey, manual demining and detection by mine detection dogs. The project area totaled 1,179,000 sqm, of which 413,915 sqm was subjected to manual clearance in combination with detection by mine detection dogs, while the larger part of the area was land released as the area without confirmed mine risk. During the clearance 14 AP mines and 1 UXO were found and safely destroyed.

The Mine Action Centre will monitor intensively in the forthcoming period the condition of mine risk reduced - released areas, in order to control and confirm the results of the project, bearing in mind that this integrated approach project has been implemented for the first time in the Republic of Serbia.

As of February 2016, the remaining mine suspected hazardous area totals around 2,000,000 sqm in the Municipality of Bujanovac.

In 2016, the funds (100,000 EUR) for demining operations have also been allocated from the Serbian State Budget and the SMAC will lobby with international donors and other investors to match these funds so that clearance operations can be continued.

Please note that, if the funds are provided, we intend, by the use of methods such as cancellation through survey, manual demining, mechanical demining, canine demining to complete clearance in Serbia well before the 2019 deadline.

Demining of mine contaminated areas in the Municipality of Bujanovac will have a number of qualitative benefits including the following:

- Clearance will contribute to the safety of the local population;
- Conditions for safe exploitation of forest, development of cattle breeding and picking of mushrooms will be created;
- Environment protection and protection against fire will be significantly increased;
- Given that Bujanovac is the most underdeveloped municipality in Serbia, for the purpose of its development and prevention of migration of its inhabitants due to economic reasons, demining will enable implementation of development projects, such as for example development of wood industry, namely exploitation and processing of wood.

There are a number of circumstances that present challenges for Serbia in complying with its Article 5 deadline. Particular issues faced by Serbia are as follows:

- Unregistered mine contaminated areas (groups of mines): The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and have not been planted in specific patterns, which aggravates demining efforts, namely survey results are subject to alterations.
- Climactic conditions: Contaminated areas are inaccessible during some periods of the year causing operation delays.
- Contamination other than mines: Specificity and complexity of the problem presents the fact that apart from mines still remaining in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia also encounters with numerous challenges related to clearance of the areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO. All these unexploded ordnance are either remaining as a result of the 1999 bombing, or are caused by an explosion and fire in a military depot, or are remaining from previous wars.

#### Remaining mine problem in the Republic of Serbia (as of February 2016)

Municipality	Village	Name of Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA)	Area (sqm)	Number of SHA in Village	Size of SHA in Village
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	Ravno Bučje	16.027	3	105.418
	Ravno Bučje	Demirska mahala 1	20.976		
	Ravno Bučje	Demirska mahala 2	68.415		
	Končulj	Končulj Dalekovod 1	21.335	5	1.182.456

	Končulj	Končulj Dalekovod 2	291.353		
	Končulj	Končulj Turijsko brdo	248.454		
	Končulj	Končulj Tuštica	143.547		
	Končulj	Končulj Singerit	477.767		
	Dobrosin	Dobrosin	247.861	1	247.861
	Breznica	Breznica	131.465	1	131.465
	Djordjevac	Djordjevac	64.169	1	64.169
	Lučane	Lučane	73.437	1	73.437
	Turija	Turija	131.274	1	131.274
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>13</b>	<b>1.936.080</b>

As stated in our Extension request plan, the dynamics of implementation of our clearance projects might be affected by provision of funds, that is if the funds for implementation of our projects are not provided, our plan will be directly affected and more difficult to achieve. On the other hand, if more funds are provided, the work plan could be implemented in a shorter period.

**Work Plan for the  
Remaining Period Covered by the Extension**

Year	Estimated amount of risk area to be cleared (square meters)	Source of funding clearance
2016	810.105	National Budget* + Donations**
2017	601.699	National Budget + Donations
2018	524.276	National Budget + Donations
2019	additional check-up and verification	National Budget
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,936,080</b>	

\*In 2016, the Serbian Government allocated funds for demining operations (previously, from the national budget were funded survey, as well as making of demining/clearance projects, following of their implementation, QC and QA of completed works as regular activities of the SMAC). We expect the funds from the national budget to be allocated for demining operations in 2017 and 2018.

\*\*As of February 2016, SMAC hasn't received the confirmation by potential donors about the available funds.

Year	Project Title	Size	SHA containing project
2016	Demining Project Ravno Bučje	105.418	Ravno Bučje, Demirska mahala 1 and Demirska mahala 2
	Demining project Končulj Dalekovod 1	104.228	Končulj Dalekovod 1 and Končulj Dalekovod 2
	Demining Project Končulj Dalekovod 2	104.228	Končulj Dalekovod 2
	Demining Project Končulj Dalekovod 3	104.228	Končulj Dalekovod 2
	Demining Project Turijsko Brdo 1	124.228	Turijsko Brdo
	Demining Project Turijsko Brdo 2	124.228	Turijsko Brdo
	Demining Project Tuštica	143.547	Tuštica
	Demining Project Singerit 1	119.442	Singerit
2017			

	Demining Project Singerit 2	119.442	Singerit
	Demining Project Singerit 3	119.442	Singerit
	Demining Project Singerit 4	119.442	Singerit
	Demining Project Dobrosin 1	123.931	Dobrosin
2018	Demining Project Dobrosin 2	123.931	Dobrosin
	Demining Project Breznica	131.465	Breznica
	Demining Project Đorđevac	64.169	Đorđevac
	Demining Project Lučane	73.437	Lučane
	Demining Project Turija	131.274	Turija

Please note that in the Republic of Serbia, demining operations in accordance with the IMAS conduct specialized companies and other organizations registered for such works, and which are technically equipped and employ adequate staff, and as such accredited by the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

Contractors for implementation of humanitarian demining/clearance SMAC projects funded from the budget and international donations are selected through tender procedures.

As of February 2016, tender procedures have not been completed, so that we are not in a position to state by which organizations the works would be conducted.