

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings, 22 June – 24 June 2021

Statement by the Gender and Diversity Working Group

Thank you Mr. President and thank you to the panellists for their interesting remarks. I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of the Gender and Diversity Working Group which includes representatives from Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Danish Church Aid, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, The HALO Trust, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mines Action Canada, Mines Advisory Group, Mine Action Review, Norwegian People's Aid, Seguridad Humana en Latino América y el Caribe, and my own organization Humanity and Inclusion.

We acknowledged that the Presidency has included Gender and Diverse needs as a priority by including it on the agenda of these inter-sessional meetings. However, today's opening panel was not gender and diversity balanced and the voices of survivors were missing. We encourage the Mine Ban Treaty community to ensure meaningful participation of representatives of all who are concerned and affected during upcoming events including the 19th MSP.

The Working Group has examined how gender and diversity considerations have been mainstreamed in the Article 5 extension requests submitted so far this year and we would like to share some reflections.

The Working group welcomes the inclusion of sex and age disaggregated data for casualties and/or EORE beneficiaries in the extension requests submitted by Turkey, Somalia, Nigeria and Mauritania. Disaggregated data is an essential first step in designing gender and diversity sensitive mine action programmes, but not the only one.

We encourage all states to establish and revise already established contamination baselines through inclusive consultation with women, girls, boys and men as stated by Oslo Action Plan action No. 18 and its associated indicators and also to report on it.

Many of the extension requests reference work towards ensuring compliance of national standards with IMAS. States should also ensure their standards are fully compliant with the gender and diversity provisions of IMAS and provide details on how gender considerations are included in national standards, as well as national mine action strategies and action plans; and how they are monitored.

We welcome the fact that Nigeria provides gender disaggregated data related to the composition of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. All states should collect data and present statistics on how many men and women are employed in mine action activities, in operational, support and decision-making roles across all mine action stakeholders in country. Such statistics should also include how many of them are survivors and other persons with disabilities.

States submitting extension requests should outline the national legal framework and how it affects equal opportunities in employment as we know that in some states there are legal barriers to inclusive hiring.

All National policies & plans inclusive of APMBC VA obligations should be inclusive of survivors and indirect victims and take not only gender, but also age and disability and other diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all victim assistance programmes and policies, in line with Oslo Action Plan action No. 33.

States should report on what measures are taken to ensure their active participation throughout all these stages, including through the implementation of accessibility and reasonable accommodation measures.

Mr. President,

Integrating gender and diversity considerations in mine action will not only support the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan, but also of other international commitments that many APMBC States Parties have made, such as but not limited to Resolution 1325, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Sustainable Development Goals.

States Parties are encouraged to seek links with other conventions and policy frameworks, to share data, best practices and challenges and report on the gender and diversity mainstreaming initiatives they are undertaking. This way, States Parties will maximize their efforts and promote cross-sector advancement.

With 2025 fast approaching, it is crucially important that we work as inclusively as possible to ensure efficiency and meet our shared goals. The Gender and Diversity Working Group remains available to support this work.

Thank you.