



Statement by MAG on Article 5

(Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Madam Chair.

Excellencies, colleagues,

We welcome the timely submission of Article 5 extension requests by Chad and Cambodia. We commend them both for requesting extensions consistent with the 2025 commitment of States Parties made at the Third Review Conference in Maputo.

Data from the Mine Action Review indicates only 12 States Parties currently have reasonable baselines of their contamination established. We encourage all States Parties working towards Article 5 implementation to apply best practices in land release and implement fully the Mine Action Review's recommendations. This includes conducting baseline surveys to clearly define the extent of contamination. We also emphasise the need for good data management in the design of realistic national action plans.

Achieving the 2025 commitment in Chad and Cambodia, as is the case with many other States Parties, is achievable, but dependent on significant additional international assistance, as well as resources committed by affected States Parties themselves. Although overall funding for mine action increased in 2017, this masks a continued shortfall in funding for legacy clearance.

We welcome Cambodia's and Chad's inclusion of a resource mobilisation strategy in their national action plans. MAG is a co-founder of the Landmine Free 2025 campaign which is calling for a step-change in funding from States Parties to legacy contexts. We also support further scoping of private sector funding or investments, and fundraising through trusts and foundations.

We welcome the increased funding to the new landmine emergency in the Middle East and we commend the response by the international community, led particularly by NGOs on the ground. While this new threat has created a need to reassess operating methodologies, it does not change the fact that anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature should be addressed within the full scope of the Convention. This includes Article 5 extensions and Article 7 reporting.

Finally, achieving completion by 2025 remains achievable in many States Parties. But we are starting to run out of time. We need more strong national action plans based on accurate data and we need these to be matched with international assistance to ensure successful implementation. We are hopeful that the Fourth Review Conference later this year will galvanise the support and efforts required to get the sector on track for 2025.

Many thanks Madam Chair.

ENDS