



**Norwegian People's Aid**

## **Statement by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)**

***Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
First International Pledging Conference, 2 March 2016, Geneva***

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Madam President, Excellences, colleagues.

Clearing mine affected areas remains a core obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and is essential to achieving its humanitarian objectives. NPA remains committed towards assisting States Parties complete their Article 5 obligations.

In the seventeen years since the Convention entered into force, substantial progress has been made in land release methodology, with evidence-based survey forming its backbone. Efficient land release demands high-quality non-technical survey to confirm or cancel suspected hazardous areas, together with an appropriate demining toolbox to conduct technical survey and clearance.

To-date, international support for mine action has been substantial, and we thank donors for their generous support, and their commitment to finish the job. But, we would like to stress that it is not simply a matter of securing sufficient funding for the last stretch, but also of ensuring funding is targeted and used effectively.

Madam President,

In many affected countries, there is a lack of clarity with regards to the challenges impeding implementation of Article 5, as illustrated by the lack of sufficient detail and timelines in many Article 5 extension requests, and repeated deadline extensions.

It is therefore essential to gain a better understanding, on a country-by-country basis, of the remaining challenges and how best to address them, so that resources can be targeted in a more effective manner.

Achieving this requires an open dialogue between stakeholders, including donors, operators, and most importantly, national authorities in affected countries, where ownership of the issue rightfully lies.

Madam President,

NPA, along with fellow clearance operators such as Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the HALO Trust, believes greater progress can be achieved through embracing a spirit of partnership, transparency, accountability, and constructive challenge.

With this in mind, we would like to draw delegates' attention to the Clearing the Mines report, produced by Mine Action Review – an independent research project, supported and published by NPA, and funded by Norway. Mine Action Review also serves as the primary source of information on mine action for the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, published by ICBL-CMC.

The Clearing the Mines report, which is produced annually, analyses the performance of national mine action programmes, based on indicators that reflect international good practice, including among other criteria, the degree to which the problem is understood, and the extent to which clearance is targeted, efficient, and timely.

It is hoped that the report will be used by the mine action community as a tool for discussion, and on a country-by-country basis, to help in the identification of challenges and areas for improvement, and where additional support or expertise may be of benefit. It is also hoped that donors find this publication useful in deciding how to direct their funding appropriately and in a targeted manner.

Madam President, to conclude.

It is essential that the commitment of funding for mine action, is coupled with the guiding principles of efficiency and effectiveness, in order to make the possibility of a mine-free world by 2025 a reality. NPA stands ready to assist in completing Article 5 implementation, as both a clearance operator, and a partner in the collective efforts of the mine action community.

We thank you, Madam President.

ENDS