

Gender and Diversity in Mine Action Working Group

Statement to the 19th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty on Clearance and Risk Education

I am pleased to take the floor in my capacity as a member of the Gender and Diversity Working Group. I would like to add some remarks on behalf of the 11 civil society organizations, Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, DCA, the GICHD, HI, the ICBL-CMC, MAC, MAG, Mine Action Review, NPA, SEHLAC and my own organization The HALO Trust.

With the Oslo Action Plan, affected States Parties committed to include gender and diversity considerations in national work plans and strategies and to consult with all groups in affected communities during the process of establishing contamination baselines. They also recognised the importance of delivering tailored risk education to all affected populations and of collecting, analysing and reporting data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other diverse needs. Such inclusive approaches are not optional; they are essential to effective mine action operations.

The Working Group has analysed the Article 7 reports submitted to-date in 2021, to determine to what extent States Parties are reporting on gender and diversity considerations. Of the 74 States Parties that have submitted Article 7 transparency reports in 2021, 29 States Parties – less than half – included some reference to Gender and Diversity in their reporting, to varying degrees of detail, including through presenting data disaggregated by gender and age. Of those, fifteen affected States Parties provided further updates on their efforts to mainstream gender and diversity, such as through national mine action strategies, mixed survey and EORE teams, ensuring equal employment opportunities, and providing training. We welcome the particularly comprehensive updates from Colombia and Turkey.

We appreciate the increase in attention to and analysis of gender and diversity in the Article 5 extension request process and hope to see this work continue to be strengthened.

Furthermore, the Mine Action Review conducted analysis of gender and diversity policy and practices in mine-affected countries, and awarded improved scores on gender and diversity to only four states parties in 2020 – Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq and Yemen. We welcome the commitment of these states parties to improve and we urge others to follow suit.

In our second year implementing the Oslo Action Plan, we should be doing better. Sustained and systematic action is required from all mine action stakeholders to achieve real change.