

Mine Action Review statement

Thematic Session – Completion and Sustainable National Capacities **Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021**

Thank you for the excellent presentations and we welcome the exchange of best practice on this important topic. Planning and establishing sustainable national capacity is something that all affected States Parties should be planning for, well ahead of Article 5 completion.

Mine Action Review also includes a sub-section on ‘planning for residual risk after completion’ at the end of each State Party country report, in our annual *Clearing the Mines* publication.

According to Mine Action Review's own civil society parallel monitoring of Action 26 of the Oslo Action Plan, we found that 34% of affected States Parties assessed include provision for addressing unknown mined areas in their strategies and/or completion plans. And 24% of affected States Parties report having put in place sustainable national capacities to address discovery of previously unknown mined areas.

Several States Parties have national clearance capacity in the Armed Forces, Civil Defence, Police or other institution. However, it is not sufficient to simply name the national entity responsible, there should be an agreed plan in place specifying which entity is responsible for addressing residual contamination, under which circumstances, and which ensures provision is made for long-term access to the national information management database. Most importantly, the entity must be adequately resourced.

A sustainable clearance capacity post completion ties in closely with Action 9 of the Oslo Action Plan, which includes the need for States Parties to have a sustainable information management system in place that can be accessed, managed, and analysed post-completion. A sustainable information management system is one that is nationally owned.

We encourage all States Parties when they reach completion to include information on the national residual capacity in place in their statements on Article 5 completion and in their formal declarations of Article 5 compliance, to help serve as positive examples to other States Parties still on their path to completion.

Thank you.