



Mine Action Review statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Agenda Item 10c: Cooperation and Assistance: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

APMBC Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, 21–25 November 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Committee on Cooperation and Assistance for its hard work over the last year.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Mine Action Review.

The paper on *'Reflections on the implementation of mine clearance obligations of States Parties and the Article 5 Extension Process'*, shared by Belgium as chair of the Committee on Article 5 implementation, highlights that the pace of implementation of Article 5 obligations is intrinsically linked to resource mobilization efforts and capacities of an affected State Party. Mine Action Review agrees that an intensification of the collaboration with donors and donor coordination bodies, such as the Mine Action Support Group, could help affected States Parties to ensure an adequate level of funding regarding their work plans and/or extension requests.

The findings of this year's Landmine Monitor reveal that 70% of the overall international funding for mine action comes from the five biggest donors. At the same time, five affected states receive half of all international contributions.

A key challenge to Article 5 implementation is how to better coordinate and distribute funding to ensure that the high number of affected States with medium or light contamination, and which struggle to attract donor interest, are also funded to help them reach completion. Failure to do so will see these States Parties remain on the list of mine-affected countries in 2025 and well beyond.

We also encourage affected States to draw on the expertise of implementing partners and other expert organisations during the elaboration of their extension requests or national strategies and work plans. We encourage affected states to set up National/In-country Platforms for Dialogue (as referenced in Action #44 of the Oslo Action Plan), as a useful forum in which to discuss these important documents prior to their submission or adoption. National in-country platforms should include donors, as well as clearance operators, to help get buy-in and a better chance of implementation of work plans being funded.

Thank you.