



## **Mine Action Review statement on Status of Implementation of Oslo Action Plan implementation**

### **Agenda Item 7: Thematic Panel on Deciphering the numbers: Status of Implementation**

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

Thank you, Mr. President and to the panellists for the informative summaries.

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

Since the adoption of the Oslo Action Plan, Mine Action Review has monitored 24 of the indicators relating to survey and clearance, the full results of which are available on our website. Our monitoring results vary from the official Convention monitoring, as Mine Action Review's assessment of Oslo Action Plan implementation is based on our broader research, which includes not only official treaty reporting, but also liaison with national authorities, clearance operators, UNMAS, UNDP, OSCE, and GICHD.

Over the three years in which we've monitored the Oslo Action Plan, Mine Action Review has recorded improvement in performance in just over 20% of indicators, with performance for the remainder of indicators having stayed the same or else having declined. This is in part explained by completion of mine clearance by Chile and the United Kingdom, which were achieving many of the indicators. And in addition, we have since begun monitoring implementation by Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria. Nonetheless, the pace of implementation of the Oslo Action Plan needs to improve.

Determining an accurate baseline of anti-personnel mine contamination is central for Article 5 implementation and for accurate planning for completion. However, according to our analysis, only 10% of States Parties have established an accurate and evidence-based contamination baseline: Angola, Oman, and Zimbabwe. Many States Parties have a reasonable idea of their baseline, but still require further survey to more accurately delineate some mined areas. This applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Serbia, South Sudan, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Türkiye. Sri Lanka has almost completed its non-technical survey to more accurately determine the baseline of mined area.

Insecurity can, to a varying extent, prevent or hinder conflict-affected affected States Parties from accessing some mined areas under their jurisdiction or control. This was the case in Chad, Colombia, DR Congo, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. It also concerns Cameroon and Mali, which have still to request a new Article 5 deadline to address new contamination.

The strong inclusion of gender and diversity in the Oslo Action Plan has been warmly welcomed and has helped advance their mainstreaming. However, there is still work to be done in this regard. According to our monitoring of the Oslo Action Plan, only 47% of affected States Parties have national work plans and strategies that integrate gender and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account. The same percentage of affected States Parties, 47%, reported having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys, and men.



Furthermore, it is worth highlighting that the Oslo Action Plan does not include any actions or indicators on mitigating the impact of mine action on the environment. The Mine Ban Convention will need to find a way to help promote and monitor the mainstreaming of environment considerations in implementation.

For the first time this year, Mine Action Review has included questions on the environment in all our questionnaires and correspondence with national authorities, clearance operators, and other stakeholders and this year's country reports include a section on Environmental Policies and Action. The section covers: whether States have a national mine action standard (NMAS) on the environment; whether national authorities and their implementing partners have an environmental management system in place; and how, if at all, is the environment taken into consideration during the planning and tasking process for survey and clearance of mines, in order to minimise potential harm from demining activities. We hope this monitoring is of use to help inform and move forward progress on this important and topical issue.

Thank you.