

**Item 9: Presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests  
Comment on the extension request of Thailand**

**Twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC, 21-25 Nov 2022, Geneva**

**Delivered by Thea Katrin Mjelstad, Advisor**

Thank you Chair,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, let me congratulate you on the Presidency as well as extend thanks to you, the ISU and the Secretariat colleagues on their continued work and dedication to the implementation of the Convention for the past 25 years. We hope that the continued joint efforts of the States Parties, the ISU, and the civil society and operators will bring us closer to making the world free of mines a reality.

NPA would like to make a brief comment on the Article 5 extension request submitted by Thailand. Given the extent of the contamination as well as the complexities due to density of contamination and access in hard to reach areas, we welcome the extension request submitted by Thailand and hope that it will allow sufficient time to fulfil the Convention obligations.

The remaining landmine contamination is less than 29 km<sup>2</sup> of which 14 km<sup>2</sup> are in areas that require cooperation with Cambodia. As Thailand and Cambodia are both parties to the Mine Ban Convention, clearance efforts should be coordinated and materialise into a border clearance agreement as soon as possible to ensure humanitarian mine action operations can take place in all contaminated areas along the border. This is a necessary precondition to Thailand and Cambodia's timely completion, returning previously contaminated land to affected communities for their safe and productive use.

NPA hopes to see improved national efforts on gender mainstreaming within its mine action programme to ensure meaningful completion that leaves no one behind.

NPA has supported both countries' clearance efforts and has been present on ground for decades; we have been present in Cambodia since 1992 and operational in Thailand since 2011, working with Thailand on enhancing non-technical survey efforts as well as introducing effective and efficient technical survey methods. We remain committed and at full disposal to support the cross-border cooperation approach through continued contribution fostering cooperation, knowledge-sharing and good practices, as this is a crucial step to ensure that Thailand can fulfil its Article 5 obligations within the proposed extension period.

Thank you.