



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**2022 Intersessional Meetings**  
**Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5**  
**Implementation**  
**20-22 June 2022**

**Statement by MAG**  
*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As we strive towards a mine free world, we would like to highlight three fundamental principles: transparency, national ownership, and the humanitarian imperative.

Firstly, on transparency: the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau reminds us that discovery of mined areas post-completion is very likely in any context. The request submitted by Yemen, alongside dialogue with other affected states, shows the need for capacity to identify, report on, and manage, new contamination. The commitment to transparency by States Parties is to be commended in these cases and should be met with constructive support under the treaty framework. Given the nuanced thinking required to define end states, we welcome recent and ongoing discussions in the sector on “all reasonable effort”.

Secondly, on national ownership: the international community must support the development of national mine action capacities that are able to work with the support of international partners towards Article 5 compliance and manage longer term risk.

Good work is already being undertaken in the sector to provide affected states with technical support on a range of issues, such as mine action standards, information management, technical training and quality assurance and quality control of operations. However, sustainability needs long-term national ownership and commitment and achieving that requires further discussion, creative thinking and political engagement.

Mr. Chair,

When considering obstacles and delays to completion, we need to consider the root causes of those delays. The Article 5 extension request process should be seen as an articulation of the challenges, and a route to identifying constructive support. We would like to thank the Article 5 Committee and the Implementation Support Unit for their transparency and engagement with civil society. We appreciate the opportunity you give us to provide input on extension requests and efforts to obtain clarification and additional detail from affected states. Any changes to the process should consider ways to improve the timing and depth of engagement with the affected state, with a view to centralising and incentivising national ownership. Dialogue at international level is at its most valuable when inclusive and genuinely reflective of the needs of affected states.

Lastly, on the humanitarian imperative: the APMBC was driven by a need to address the devastation caused by landmines, and the injustice of their impact. It is within the spirit of the treaty therefore to recognise that the route to completion must be one that prioritises humanitarian need. Where other types of explosive ordnance are posing a more immediate threat, we must balance the need to clear the last mine with removing that threat. Again, the principles of localisation and national ownership

are critical in ensuring that that response is informed by the voices of mine and explosive ordnance-affected communities.

To conclude, in working towards achieving Article 5, we must bear in mind the factors that enable completion to be reached in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner. The three principles we have highlighted can guide us when considering these factors, and identifying areas of investment to reap the greatest dividends in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**ENDS**