

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

Thank you Chair,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, please allow me to congratulate Colombia on the presidency and the devotion to promoting the norms laid out in the Convention. I would also like to extend thanks on behalf of NPA to you Chair and the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and to the Implementation Support Unit for continued dedication to the implementation of the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan (OAP).

NPA would like to commend the immense work done over the years to ensure a strong Article 5 extension request process. We would also like to reiterate our support expressed at the 19MSP to discussing the existing extension request process and to explore ways in which we can best support affected states during the process. NPA is available for any consultations or support with regards to joint discussions and to bring our experience and expertise as a clearance operator. It is also important that the voices of national authorities in affected countries, are engaged during the discussion.

Nine states are due to submit their Article 5 extension requests for consideration at 20MSP. Seven have already done so for comment and review. Afghanistan and Eritrea have yet to submit. Eritrea continues to be in serious violation of the Convention, which is a grave concern and should now be addressed under Article 8 if no progress is made before 20MSP.

Less than a handful of affected States Parties remain on track to complete within their existing deadlines. We regret that this is the case and reiterate the importance of investing efforts to identify evidence-based contaminated areas, thus setting a realistic baseline aimed at timely completion, as per Action 18 of the OAP. According to Mine Action Review's monitoring of the Oslo Action plan in 2021, only 11% of affected States Parties have managed to achieve an accurate contamination baseline to-date, which they need to rectify without delay. Accurate baselines are a prerequisite to developing realistic and timely completion plans.

Even some of the few States which are on track to complete within their set deadlines, such as Zimbabwe, may through no fault of their own not be able to achieve this if they are unable to secure sufficient funding. Fellow operators and donors, as affected states near completion, we must ensure that funding is maintained to help support clearance effort to get them across the finishing line. While we appreciate humanitarian crises often take first priority, it remains critically important to continue adequate levels of funding to legacy contamination too, and not least to those national authorities who are demonstrating political will and strong national ownership to tackle the mine contamination problem.

Moreover, NPA is committed to continue supporting national stakeholders with capacity development and direct implementation of clearance and explosive ordnance risk education activities which must capture the needs of *all* affected persons and be prioritised and implemented in a transparent, tailored, gender and diversity sensitive manner, in line with Action 3 of the OAP.

Finally, successful completion mandates sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas discovered following completion, as per Action

26 of the OAP. Only 39% of affected States Parties report including provisions for addressing previously unknown mined areas in their national strategies and/or completion plans while 29% report having a sustainable national capacity, as per MAR OAP 2021 monitoring. Affected States Parties, donors and operators should work together to develop sustainable residual contamination management through long-term capacity development. NPA underlines that this has always been at the centre of our approach, as national residual contamination management capacity is integral for sustained success of the Convention, long after Article 5 provisions have been fulfilled.

Thank you.