

**NPA Statement on 5. Thematic Panel and Discussion: Making Every Effort Count: Towards
a Successful 2025
APMBC Intersessional Meetings
20-22 June Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you Chair,

NPA welcomes the discussion around “all reasonable effort” and think this is a valuable conversation to have for the sector. Each State Party has a legal obligation to comply with the provisions set out in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention which means that obligations have to be respected and *every effort* must be made to clear all known or suspected mine contaminated areas. We can all agree that the most effective and efficient manner of complying with the Convention and achieving a world free of mine contamination is by applying all reasonable efforts through land release operations.

Moreover, almost three years ago we have adopted the Oslo Action Plan, which not only contributes to all reasonable effort, but also supports the foundations for successful implementation of it such as ensuring strong national ownership, evidence-based national strategies and workplans, integrating and mainstreaming gender and diversity into programming, and transparency and exchange of high quality and accurate information. NPA strongly believes based on evidence from our decades long sector experience that mainstreaming gender and diversity as well as environmental considerations into our operational response are necessary prerequisites for truly making every effort count and meaningfully succeeding in ridding our world of landmine contamination. Let us underline that for timely and meaningful fulfillment of the Convention obligations, affected States Parties as well as operators and donors must apply a gender and diversity sensitive approach. This is necessary as it is the only way to accurately capture the needs of *all* affected persons, thus providing a complete overview of the extent and urgency of mine contamination in an inclusive manner which in turn allows for tailored, transparent and needs-based prioritization. Any effort which does not mainstream gender and diversity is a squandering of resources which misses part or entire affected communities and areas, where humanitarian mine action efforts should be aimed. It is only by mainstreaming gender and diversity through implementation of the OAP that we can truly say that the Convention provisions are fully implemented and clearance obligations are completed.

We therefore urge affected States Parties to fully implement the Oslo Action Plan and apply all reasonable effort to land release operations in a holistic and inclusive manner to comply with every effort obligation laid out in the Convention and successfully manage the mine action contamination in country. We further encourage affected States Parties to ensure that land release criteria and clearance requirements set within their national standards are applicable to the context and provide the necessary prerequisites for the application of all reasonable effort, rather than deter it. NPA stands ready to continue our support for the application of all reasonable effort when conducting land release activities, as this leads to greater efficiency and ultimately timely completion.

NPA also aligns ourself with the statement of the GDWG of which we are a member.

Thank you.