

**NPA Statement on 7. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement
of Cooperation and Assistance
APMBC Intersessional Meetings
20-22 June Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you Chair,

We found the Mine Action Review monitoring of the Oslo Action Plan report very beneficial for the entire sector and look forward to the next report, which should provide a timely insight, half-way through to the next Review Conference.

NPA stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Yemen, and welcomes the international support pledged and given to Ukraine for disarmament and demining efforts. However, we hereby express concern that funding has been redirected from one humanitarian need to another and call for donors' cautiousness that any funds given to Ukraine, whilst much needed and most encouraged, must be additional to already committed ones in other humanitarian crisis around the world. Donors should be mindful that funds are not *diverted* to Ukraine at the expense of other countries and people in need, but rather that these funds should be given *in addition*, as urgent needs of affected civilians in grave humanitarian situations should not compete for funding geographically.

We also welcome cross-border cooperation approach, such as between Thailand and Cambodia and hope to see something concrete soon. NPA is present in both countries and will continue our contribution to foster cooperation and share knowledge, lessons and good practices.

We would also like to remind of the success of Country Coalitions, which NPA has had first experience with as an operator for both APMBC and CCM. This approach not only fosters partnership between countries and brings together the sector, but also is aimed to fulfill the Convention obligations in a concerted manner. Sometimes our will and already invested work is not sufficient to complete; as we have witnessed a number of countries, such as Zimbabwe, which have demonstrated strong political will and national ownership and where operators, donors, and the national authorities have done their part almost to the end, it has not been enough. We must not forget those almost success stories and should commit funding, engage in Country Coalitions and jointly cross that finish line to landmine-free status.

Finally, cooperation and assistance go beyond funding and translate into capacity development, enhancing partnerships and sustainable long-term national capacities. NPA strongly believes that Capacity Development is crucial for successful fulfillment of all Convention obligations and continues to extend our support to national authorities and key stakeholders, as capacity development is a key component for all our land release programmes.

Thank you.