

**NPA Statement on
5. Related to the Mandate of the Committee on Article 7 Assistance and Cooperation
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings
Geneva, 19 June 2023**

Delivered by Kristina Đurić, Senior Policy Advisor

Thank you Chair,

Article 7 of the APMBC is an essential part of the Convention. Fulfilling the Convention obligations relies on joint efforts – by affected States Parties as well as by those States Parties not affected by mine contamination but whose role is equally as important for the job being done.

As we're approaching the next review conference, the goal from the last review conference in Oslo in 2019 of getting countries across the finish line still stands as relevant as ever. We know from experience that this will depend on meaningful cooperation by all state parties – through funding, capacity development and exchange of lessons learned. We welcome and reconfirm our commitment to cooperation initiatives such as the ones announced at the last MSP by Thailand and Cambodia and Peru and Ecuador concerning mined areas on their shared borders and hope other State Parties will follow these examples.

As stressed in our statement on Article 5 implementation, the success of the Convention relies on all States Parties making increased efforts to ensure timely completion, through forming National Mine Action Platforms as in line with Action 44 of the Oslo Action Plan, engaging in state to state cooperation and dedicating continued resources necessary for the successful fulfillment of the Convention's obligations. We invite affected States Parties to initiate roundtable talks with all relevant stakeholders, enhance national coordination mechanisms and seek to enhance sustainable long-term national capacities to ensure conditions are met for successful management of residual contamination.

We are thankful for the long-term commitment and support from several donors who have shown great efforts over the years in supporting the Convention's objectives. However, funding remains one of the main obstacles towards the timely completion for many of the remaining 34 State Parties with clearance obligations. Though NPA fully supports, understands and applauds the increased support given to humanitarian crises such as in Ukraine, we strongly encourage that the overall funding to mine action is increased and does not come at the expense of support to others, but rather in addition to, as we risk leaving countries behind, tumbling at the finish line. Zimbabwe, Angola and other states with long-standing contamination problem, rely on the continued commitment from the Convention community to succeed. The list of countries with low contamination which are still far away from completion due to the lack of funding, is increasing. As we heard yesterday from the Monitor and underlined earlier, resources are available, we just need to allocate them appropriately. We strongly encourage more donors to come forward and support through increased, diversified and committed multiyear funding, allowing for thorough, predictable and thus more efficient and effective planning, getting the most out of the available resources, for sustainable and responsible implementation of the Convention.

Finally, NPA puts strengthening national capacities at the core of our work, with capacity development efforts integrated across all our programmes. We also stand ready to assist, share our

experience and contribute to the combined effort to take the sector forward in a sustainable manner that ensures no one is left behind, that protects our environment and supports climate resilience. We especially encourage affected States Parties, operators and donors to recognise the need for reducing the environmental impact of mine action activities, exchange knowledge and good practice, with an aim to take into account climate change and environmental degradation into mine action programming.

Thank you.