

**NPA Statement on
6. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings
Geneva, 19 June 2023**

Delivered by Kristina Duric, Senior Policy Advisor

Thank you Chair,

Allow me to primarily thank you and the Committee Members for your engagement on the topic. Many States Parties, civil society and operators present here today have been instrumental in bringing about the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) more than three decades ago and continue to play an important role under the Convention. I am sure we can all agree that the Convention's long-lasting success must be guarded to continue its purpose for future generations; compliance with its norms being ensured at all times and under all circumstances.

The APMBC is one of the leading international frameworks, a strong and successful humanitarian disarmament treaty, that has protected civilians, working to end the suffering and casualties caused by these indiscriminate weapons that kill and maim civilians, especially children, prevent humanitarian access, safe movement and return of displaced populations, hamper reconstruction and development and cause unnecessary harm both during armed conflict and for decades after a conflict is over. The Convention delineates specific obligations for States Parties not to produce, use, transfer, stockpile these weapons, to clear all known contamination in territories under their jurisdiction, destroy stockpiles, provide risk education, victim assistance, and promote the norms of the Convention and work on its Universalisation.

This quick reflection on the Convention's success and its obligations serves to remind us that the APMBC norms must be upheld and States Parties must abide by what they legally committed to, especially when put to test. There is no excuse to violate the Convention we worked hard to agree to and implement for more than thirty years. As per Article 1, any use, by any State Party, under any circumstances is strictly prohibited. We thus express our deepest concern at the reports of a State Party Ukraine's use of anti-personnel mines, as per Human Rights Watch, a weapon that ultimately causes intolerable harm to civilians, including its own population. We do appreciate Ukraine's statements made on this matter at the 20MSP, as well as the update provided on its Extension Request on Monday and most importantly welcome the statement just made today committing to inquire into the matter and keep the community updated.

NPA stands in full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and we remain firm in our resolve to protect civilians from these indiscriminate weapons. The type and extent of AP mine contamination Ukraine is faced with is gigantic and NPA will continue to support Ukraine to rid itself of these indiscriminate weapons through our clearance operations and continuous presence in country. With this in mind, and to be able to reenforce the norms and support the implementation of the Convention, we underline the importance of the announcement just made by Ukraine on investigating

the matter, which we hope will be launched urgently, and look forward to hearing back from Ukraine on the matter as soon as possible. NPA remains available for any support needed and committed to protecting the people of Ukraine from these indiscriminate weapons.

We also take a moment to reflect on another State Party Eritrea, which is in serious violation of the Convention, a matter which we have addressed before. NPA welcomes the invocation of Article 8, which we hope will result in timely resolution of Eritrea's violation of the Convention. We hope that both Eritrea will approach the matter with good will, actively engage with the Convention and provide transparent information.

Finally, while illegal for State Parties, NPA believes no state should ever use anti-personnel landmines. We therefore strongly condemn the wide-spread use of anti-personnel mines by Russia and urge all parties to conflict to cease the use on these terrible weapons.

Thank you.