

**Mine Action Review statement on the Extension Request of Eritrea (Agenda Item 7)  
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the APMBC, 25–29 November 2024**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review.

We welcome Eritrea's participation at the Review Conference and its request to extend its Article 5 deadline.

We also welcome that the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA) is being restructured to enable it to tackle remaining mined areas. We encourage Eritrea to provide States Parties with a clear timeline for when it envisages that the restructuring of the EDA will be complete and for the elaboration of a work plan for the survey and clearance of mined areas and an accompanying budget and resource mobilisation strategy.

We welcome Eritrea's announcement that the Government has been conducting preliminary assessments involving key policy and operational stakeholders, and that it plans to conduct rigorous assessments, in order to elaborate a work plan. Eritrea should seek to elaborate and present its work plan for survey and clearance of mined areas, to States Parties as soon as possible, and provide States Parties with regular updates on the relevant findings from assessments and on the elaboration of its work plan, at each treaty meeting reporting between now and 2027 and in its Article 7 reporting. Eritrea last submitted an Article 7 report in 2014, but should submit reports annually, as is legally required under the Convention.

The last estimate of mined area dates back to the end of 2013, when Eritrea reported in its 2014 Article 5 extension request that 434 mined areas remained, covering a total of 33.4km<sup>2</sup>. All area is reportedly suspected hazardous area (SHA). Mine Action Review is unaware of any indication of progress in land release or updated information on the extent of contamination since this time.

Thank you.