



**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 8(e)(iii): Measures to Ensure Compliance
Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Siem Reap-Angkor, 25-29 November 2024**

**Delivered by
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Thank you, Mr. President,

According to the latest Landmine Monitor report, 84% of landmine casualties were civilians, 37% of whom were children. The highest numbers of casualties occurred in Myanmar, followed by Syria, both states not party to the Convention; next followed by Ukraine, currently in active conflict due to the illegal Russian invasion and widespread use of mines, and Afghanistan. New use was recorded by Myanmar, Russia, Iran and North Korea, which we strongly condemn, using anti-personnel mines is simply unacceptable. This clearly demonstrates the need for this treaty to be universally applied and fully complied with.

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates,

Your countries have signed this treaty to put a stop to the grave humanitarian crisis we witnessed in the 1990s, caused by landmines, an indiscriminate weapon with very little military utility, but unacceptable civilian costs. There can be no exception or excuse to ever go back to the dire humanitarian situation this treaty ended decades ago. The facts speak for themselves, landmines hurt primarily and almost exclusively civilians for generations after a conflict is over. Reflect on where we are, in a mine affected country, battling antipersonnel mine contamination for decades. This is not a legacy to be left to our children and future generations. As we have stated many times before, all articles of the treaty have to be principally applied and protected. An exception to one article, implies an exception to any article and the Convention as a whole. States Parties have a responsibility to protect this treaty and all its articles, condemn all use, and ensure compliance at all times and under all circumstances.

As any military expert would know, anti-personnel mines have very little military utility, but they do have grave humanitarian consequences and cause unacceptable harm to the civilians, which is the very reason why they were banned. This treaty stands its true test in the times of war, and it has demonstrated its success for almost three decades. Any use of anti-personnel mines, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable.

Ukraine is one the world's most contaminated country, it will take decades to clear it and generations of civilian suffering await at the mercy of this indiscriminate weapon. We stand in full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and strongly condemn the illegal Russian invasion.

We are deeply concerned by the news of the US transfer of anti-personnel mines to Ukraine and urge US to reverse this decision and Ukraine to uphold its obligations under the Treaty. We welcome clear and strong statements made by several States Parties in this regard during the week, such as Austria, Ireland, Mexico and New Zealand, and urge others to follow suit. This Treaty has proven to save lives. APMBC is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law and compliance with

its provisions is imperative if we are to ensure civilians are protected and a rules-based world is preserved.

We welcome Ukraine's update that the investigation into the use of anti-personnel mines by its armed forces is ongoing and look forward to continued detailed reports of its further progress and outcome.

We also welcome Ukraine's stated resolve to remain committed to the Treaty. We urge Ukraine to fulfill its legal obligations in full, protecting civilians from these indiscriminate weapons. We stand in full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and are strongly committed to supporting Ukraine through clearance operations and our mine action programme in country.

Attention should also be paid to the issue of timely fulfilling Article 5 obligations. Non-completion is non-compliance. The responsibility to implement this treaty lies with all States Parties, affected and donor states alike. We have seen, year after year, how increasingly difficult it has become to fund states which are not in humanitarian emergencies, resulting in an exponentially rising number of affected States Parties stalling in progress towards completion. Something must be done about this, without further delay, and establishing a fund aimed at fulfilling survey and clearance obligations is the solution.

In that regard, we welcome the reference to an Article 5 implementation fund for fulfilling survey and clearance obligations in the draft Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan. And we hope that the States Parties can conclude the feasibility study as soon as possible and move forward with the implementation of the fund, for the sake of affected States Parties.

I thank you.