

## **Agenda Item 8**

### **Informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5 and of the analysis of these requests**

#### **Statement by MAG**

Thank you, Madame President,

We welcome the opportunity to take the floor and begin by commending the 14 States Parties that have submitted Article 5 extension requests to this 22nd MSP of the APMBC. Preparing these requests, often under severe constraints, require significant technical effort, coordination, and political commitment. We recognise and appreciate each State's commitment to fulfil their obligations under this convention.

We would particularly like to congratulate many of MAG's partners who have made submissions this year - Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. We thank them for the inclusive processes undertaken in preparing these submissions and the constructive engagement with operators, including MAG. Such collaborations continue to be essential in achieving objectives and sustaining progress.

We also would like to highlight the significant resources being committed to mine action by the Angolan government. This is an example of how ongoing cooperation with the international community fosters national ownership and prioritisation of HMA in the national budget.

The number of requests before us also reflects the ambition set a decade ago to accelerate progress toward a mine-free world. While that vision proved challenging against today's realities, it galvanised efforts and inspired many States to reassess, plan, and sometimes recommit and reengage. This year's requests also highlight recurring challenges that deserve the attention of the APMBC community: persistent funding gaps; difficulties in determining the full extent, nature, and location of contamination; challenges in gathering and presenting reliable data; constraints on safe access for survey and clearance; and the need to sustain national capacity over the long term.

We note in particular the efforts of States working under exceptionally complex conditions. Burkina Faso, for example is confronting rapidly evolving contamination from improvised anti-personnel mines across eight regions, affecting more than 226 localities and causing over 1,600 casualties since 2017. Ethiopia continues to face access restrictions that impede survey and clearance. Cambodia, despite decades of impressive progress resulting in major reductions in the number of victims per year, is still dealing with extensive contamination which impacts on the daily lives of many people and still kills

and injures every single month. We also wish to highlight the case of Zimbabwe, now very close to completion. Despite its shown strong national commitment, Zimbabwe has nevertheless been compelled to request an extension. This highlights the need for continued international support through to completion.

Madame President,

While the dedication of all requesting States is clear, their ability to meet their obligations will depend on strengthened national coordination and sufficient international cooperation and assistance. Whether newly affected, facing complex legacy contamination, or dealing with vast and remote areas, States require predictable technical, political, and financial support to maintain momentum and meet their obligations.

We also wish to underline the importance of supporting States with limited experience of contamination, who may face challenges in understanding the structure of Article 5 and the steps required to prepare an extension request. While the new template is welcome, it can still be difficult to interpret in practice. MAG has been assisting national authorities in several contexts to navigate these procedures and strengthen coordination, and we encourage continued tailored support to ensure that all affected States can engage fully with the Convention's requirements. At the same time, we encourage all affected States to maintain transparency, national ownership, inclusivity, and evidence-based planning throughout the extension period.

The commitment reflected in this year's requests is a reminder that the Convention remains a vital humanitarian framework, one that continues to reduce harm, protect lives and limbs, and promote stability. With sustained cooperation and support, we can help ensure that these States remain on a viable path to completion.

I thank you, Madame President.