

**Mine Action Review Statement on Voluntary Trust Fund
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 9(b)(iii): Voluntary Trust Fund Feasibility Update
APMBC Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties, 1–5 December 2025**

Thank you, Madam President.

We thank Norway and fellow members of the VTF Working Group, for their work on this important initiative and for the progress paper.

Mine Action Review supports and encourages States Parties to move forward with the establishment of a **Voluntary Trust Fund for Article 5 implementation**.

We know that the funding climate for mine action is becoming ever more challenging in light of the cuts in US funding for mine action and possible budget reductions by several traditional donors — including European States — as defence expenditure increases, potentially at the expense of humanitarian and development assistance. Even before these latest challenges, there were already affected States Parties which were receiving little or no support for survey and clearance of mined areas and which were struggling to secure bilateral funding. The APMBC community must ensure those affected States Parties requiring international assistance can receive it and that no State Party is left behind.

We agree with the progress report assessment that selection should give priority to States Parties with little or no bilateral funding and projects likely to enable completion of Article 5 obligations within a short to medium timeframe (1–5 years).

We also agree with the working group’s finding thus far that not establishing a Voluntary Trust Fund would likely perpetuate existing funding gaps, increase reliance on deadline extensions, and risk leaving some States Parties behind, and that it could also weaken donor engagement and the Convention’s credibility, making it harder to achieve universal and timely implementation of Article 5 obligations.

Mine Action Review does not foresee much, if any, cross-over in the States likely to be eligible and to benefit from the Voluntary Trust Fund on Article 5 implementation and those likely to benefit from innovative finance initiatives.

In taking this initiative forward, and in looking at the funding landscape for Article 5 implementation more broadly, it could be useful for the VTF Working Group, together with the Committee on Article 5 implementation and the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, to map which mine-affected States Parties are currently receiving funding for Article 5 implementation and who their donors are. Where available, Mine Action Review now includes this information in our ‘Clearing the Mines’ country reports and stands ready to support any initiatives to provide better visibility on the issue and in identifying which affected countries would benefit most from such a Voluntary Trust Fund.

We stand ready to support this initiative, if and when we can be of assistance.

Thank you.