

**Mine Action Review comments on Angola's Article 5 Extension Request
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review.

In the interests of time we will deliver a few short observations and will submit full comments in writing.

We thank Angola for presentation of its five-year extension request, which we hope will see Angola complete fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations.

Mine Action Review believes that the extension request would benefit from the following:

1. Firstly, greater detail and clarity on the amount of operational capacity for survey and clearance required to meet the annual land release projections outlined in the request.
2. Secondly, we know from Mine Action Review's research that a significant area of uncontaminated land is cleared annually. It is therefore essential that ANAM ensures application of the land release national mine action standard (NMAS) by all implementing partners, including national and international operators and the Armed Forces.
3. Finally, clarification of what funding the Angolan government will contribute, including to what extent it will fund and equip the CND for Article 5 implementation.

Additional points, provided in the written submission of the statement:

- What proportion of mined area does Angola expects to release through survey and what proportion through clearance?
- Does the extension request take into account the amount of time and funding predicted to be required to address the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mined area that Angola expects to continue to be discovered and added to the national database?
- Mine Action Review encourages Angola to be consistent throughout its extension request in the use of land release terminology which is in line with IMAS (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey (NTS); reduced through technical survey (TS); and cleared through clearance).
- There is no mention of gender and diversity considerations during survey and clearance operations, such as the proportion of female staff at ANAM, or the fact that Angola's current National Mine Action Strategy 2020–25 integrates gender and diversity as a cross-cutting issue. Angola should strengthen this important aspect of Article 5 implementation.
- We welcome that Angola plans to promote best environmental protection practices and we encourage Angola to develop an NMAS on environmental management in mine action that is in line with the revised IMAS 7.13.
- ANAMA should provide a clear timeframe for finalising and publishing a national strategy for the management of residual contamination and of its NMAS on residual contamination. Linked to this, Angola should clarify when it intends to establish and implement a process for

formally declaring provinces mine-free. It is important that there is a clear procedure and timeline for declaring provinces mine-free once survey and clearance operations have been completed, given that clearance has been completed in Zaire, Namibe, Benguela and Huambo, but all four provinces are still awaiting formal declaration.

In order to achieve completion of Article 5 by its requested deadline, Angola will need to demonstrate continued strong national commitment and political will through to completion. ANAM will need to ensure that national entities, including both public operators and the Armed Forces and are utilised for Article 5 implementation. It will also be essential that national and international implementing partners are adequately coordinated and monitored by ANAM, and that the quality of their land release operations ensured, including with respect to information management and recording data in the national mine action database.

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