



## **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings**

**June 2025**

### **Statement on Ethiopia Article 5 Extension Request**

Thank you, Chair.

We commend the Ethiopian Mine Action Office and Ministry of Defence for presenting a request grounded in operational reality. The focus on non-technical survey and EOD spot tasks in the initial years, and a phased approach to clearance, reflects a clear understanding of the country's evolving contamination profile and access challenges, particularly in the North.

HALO welcomes the strong coordination between EMAO, UNMAS, and accredited operators in building a reliable baseline and strategy, including the thoughtful use of field-validated clearance rates and survey benchmarks. The accreditation of additional operators and renewed collaboration in various regions show promising momentum.

We support the request's emphasis on national ownership, and acknowledge the commitment shown through EMAO's leadership, capacity-building efforts, and resource mobilisation. Continued support from the international community will be essential to match the scale of need, especially as Ethiopia balances legacy contamination with newly affected areas.

We also note the importance of integrating mine action with national development, return, and reconstruction priorities, and of further strengthening coordination among all operators,



particularly as the sector grows. Localisation through partnerships with national NGOs is a commendable goal, and we encourage continued experience-sharing with other States Parties across the Convention to ensure it is built sustainably.

HALO supports Ethiopia's extension request and remains committed to working alongside EMAO, national partners, and the international community to support its implementation.

Thank you.