Mine Action Review comments on Zimbabwe'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.

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

We thank Zimbabwe for presenting its five-year extension request, which we hope will enable it to complete fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations. Zimbabwe has consistently ranked among the top-performing States Parties in Mine Action Review's annual assessments of national mine action programmes. We commend Zimbabwe for maintaining a robust and effective national mine action programme, including by productive collaboration with implementing partners.

Mine Action Review has the following comments:

- Firstly, it would be helpful for Zimbabwe to clarify the operational capacity underpinning its work plan, and to indicate whether this already accounts for the anticipated reduction in clearance capacity resulting from decreased international funding, including from the United States.
- Secondly, we would welcome ZIMAC providing additional information on the basis on which it has calculated the projected clearance outputs for the various minefields—for example, the number of deminers, mine detection dogs, and machines allocated per organisation, and the estimated number of operational days.
- Lastly, we encourage Zimbabwe to provide a more detailed rationale and breakdown of its budget, including budget lines for key cost centres. It is currently difficult to reconcile the projected funding requirements with the anticipated outputs. For example, USD 4.95 million is requested for 2028, during which 900,000m² is expected to be released; however, the same annual amount is cited for 2029, when approximately half that amount is expected to be released, and again for 2030, when no land release is projected.

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

- For the sake of clarity and accuracy, the extension period should be consistently stated throughout the request as 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030, rather than 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2030.
- Zimbabwe is encouraged to clarify the small discrepancy of 990,455m² between the reported amount of mined area at the start of the previous extension period (January 2018), the total land released between the start of 2018 and the end of 2024, the previously unknown contamination added to the database during that period, and the remaining mined area to be addressed as of the end of 2024.
- It would also be helpful for ZIMAC to clarify, in approximate terms, how much of the remaining mined area it expects to cancel through non-technical survey, reduce through technical survey, and release through clearance. We encourage ZIMAC to specify the planned land release methodology in its work plan.

- How much international funding has already been secured for the proposed extension period, and which donors have committed support?
- Are the equipment costs for the National Mine Clearance Unit (NMCU) additional to the annual clearance budget of USD 0.5 million per year? It would be helpful for Zimbabwe to clarify the total funding and timeline required to fully equip the NMCU, and whether sufficient national resources have been allocated or if international assistance will be needed to meet this requirement.
- In light of the reduction in U.S. funding and its negative impact on demining capacity, Zimbabwe is encouraged to provide available information on its planned resource mobilization efforts to address the funding gap.
- Mine Action Review welcomes Zimbabwe's commitment to reviewing its National Mine Action Standard (NMAS) on environmental protection to align it with the updated IMAS. We encourage ZIMAC to include examples in its request of the measures already undertaken and those planned by ZIMAC and its implementing partners to safeguard the environment during the implementation of activities in the proposed extension period.
- Mine Action Review encourages Zimbabwe to develop and publish a comprehensive gender and diversity policy, along with a clear implementation plan that specifically addresses both ZIMAC and the NMCU.
- Mine Action Review commends Zimbabwe's commitment to funding sustainable national capacity to address residual contamination. Could Zimbabwe clarify where the information management database will be housed to ensure the NMCU has access when responding to reports of residual contamination?

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