

Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG) Statement on Article 5 extension requests
Agenda item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 17–20 June 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This statement is delivered on behalf of the thirteen member organisations of the Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG). We would like to offer brief reflections on how gender and diversity have been addressed in Article 5 extension requests submitted to date and under consideration this year.

Indicator 1 of Action 23 of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan monitors the percentage of extension requests which consider gender, age, disability, and the diverse needs and experiences of affected communities, including survivors.

We would like to highlight the following positive developments referenced in some of this year's extension requests:

We commend **Cambodia** for adopting a National Mine Action Standard on Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in 2024, and the CMAA's plans to develop monitoring tools, a work plan, and conduct field monitoring to assess the implementation of the standard.

We welcome **Ethiopia's** commitment to collaborate with implementing partner Gender Focal Points to develop a Gender and Disability Mainstreaming Policy and its consideration of a dedicated technical working group. Given the anticipated rapid scale-up of operations, meaningful inclusion of women and minority groups from the outset will be vital.

We congratulate **South Sudan** for its adoption of a Gender Equality and Diversity Policy for mine action. We encourage its inclusion in the main body of the extension request, along with implementation plans.

We welcome that during **Türkiye's** previous extension period, TURMAC and UNDP encouraged women's employment and ensured equal pay as part of the Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project. Notably, Türkiye's first female civilian demining dog handlers were trained and certified as part of this project.

In some cases, such as **Colombia**, extension requests contain minimal references to gender and diversity—despite national efforts to mainstream these considerations, as reflected in Colombia's national development and operational plans and its NMAS on land release.

In closing, while many requests reference gender and diversity in relation to explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and disaggregated beneficiary and victim data—typically by sex and age, and occasionally by disability—few provide substantive information on broader efforts to mainstream gender and diversity across national mine action programmes. We encourage affected States to provide more comprehensive information, both to reflect ongoing progress and provide valuable examples of good practice to other affected States.

Thank you.