

Agenda Item 4

Matters Related to the Mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Statement by MAG

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Thank you Chair,

as a humanitarian mine action operator working side by side with national authorities and other stakeholders in several of the countries that are presenting their extension requests, we would like to briefly take the floor on this agenda item.

We are glad to see detailed extension requests by national authorities that are showing ownership in the implementation of the APMBC and political commitment within their own countries. The strength of the APMBC is equal to the value that its members confer to this Convention, and such value is reflected in these extension requests.

The transparency and openness showed in all these presentations should be very much welcomed. Such transparency should be maintained, along with a realistic attitude that prioritise the efficient and effective fulfilment of Article-5 obligations, setting realistic goals.

The APMBC is currently proving that is the instrument to address all types of anti-personnel mines contamination and reduce the risk for many people and communities. We would like to praise states – such as Burkina Faso and Mali – which are flagging the presence of new forms of previously unknown contamination.

Several states in West Africa – including Burkina Faso, Mali, and Nigeria – are facing new or previously unknown contamination from improvised landmines. Such devices have not only been well mainstreamed in the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan, but they also represent a significant threat that should be addressed through the current provisions of the APMBC and its machinery, as we indicated last November in our publication, *Pathways to Completion*.

Chair,

this year's requests and presentations clearly show some very important points. States dealing with anti-personnel mines contamination are going towards the right direction. They are putting in places systems and procedures that guarantee a sustainable national capacity. The APMBC community should continue to support such efforts, in particular when it comes to building capacity that will be able to deal with post-completion residual risk. This is critical to prevent risks and protect human life.

Yesterday we all warmly welcomed Oman's declaration of completion, and we were reminded of how heartwarming is to hear that a state has reach completion. We should all strive to reach those achievements in the territory of many States Parties. But to do so we need the commitment of all States Parties.

Constant and reliable funding and technical assistance should continue to be provided to all States Parties, as they are effective members of this Convention, which clearly conveys that the risks and

dangers posed by any anti-personnel landmine is a common concern for the whole APMBC community.

In their extension requests, a number of states, such as Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, showed not only ownership, but also their own expertise in and commitment towards the fulfilment of Article-5 obligations. Similarly, Guinea Bissau is ready to continue to work towards completion. Such commitment and expertise should be met with adequate international assistance and cooperation from the rest of the APMBC community, which should also show its own ownership of and commitment to the APMBC.

It is no mystery that fundings for mine action are decreasing. This is impacting both the effectiveness of this Convention and its life-saving essential function. We thank all the states that, regardless the current situation, are still supporting mine action; we hope that their example inspires many others.

I thank you, Chair.