

**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5  
Implementation  
2025 Intersessional meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, 17-20 June 2025**

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Thank you, Chair,

We come together today following the 5th Review Conference in Cambodia, where the adoption of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan demonstrated a strong collective commitment to fulfilling Article 5 obligations and finally achieving the ultimate goal of a mine-free world. It has, however, also served as a stark reminder that the job is far from done and marked the beginning of a crucial five-year period during which the need for accelerated progress and completion is greater than ever.

It is concerning to note that according to the latest Mine Action Review Report, none of the 36 mine-affected States Parties were able to declare completion of their clearance obligations during the past two years. At the same time, 14 States Parties are submitting new extension requests this year—including countries like Zimbabwe, which has done everything in line with its obligations and nearing completion but was unable to cross the finish line due to insufficient resources.

Stories of successful completion are essential—not only for ensuring full compliance with the Convention's obligations, but also to inspire for universalization and continued progress in its implementation. NPA congratulates Oman on fulfilling its Article 5 obligations and reaching the important milestone of completion. We also welcome Croatia's announcement that it is on track to complete its Article 5 obligations by its March 2026 deadline.

In the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan, the States Parties have committed to working together towards the substantive reduction in the number of mine-affected States Parties. Achieving this goal requires urgent and coordinated action—not only from affected States Parties, but also from those in a position to provide support, as well as from operators and other relevant stakeholders. All must join forces to ensure timely and meaningful completion with no one left behind.

Some of the key aspects to achieving this goal are ensuring that extension requests are comprehensive, meet the standards outlined in Action 23 of the new Action Plan, and are assessed critically, through a thorough and not overly lenient process. Ensuring greater efficiency—and thus speeding up completion—also requires affected States Parties to establish accurate national contamination baselines and ensure National Mine Action Standards are in line with updated IMAS, as well as operators to strictly apply land release methodologies, including new technologies.

Time is of the essence, especially as the past decade has seen a concerning rise in the use of anti-personnel mines, causing severe harm to civilians in countries like Myanmar, Ukraine, Yemen, and Syria, as well as the recent alarming steps of some States Parties considering withdrawals and potentially reintroducing these horrendous and therefore banned weapons. Fulfilling Article 5 obligations as soon as possible is imperative for the protection of civilians and all means that can support completion should be implemented without further delay.

Thank you.