

Thank you, Madam Chair.

This **joint statement** is delivered on behalf of the following 11 members of the Environmental Issues and Mine Action (EIMA) Working Group: **APOPO, Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOPS), DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), FSD, ICBL-CMC, International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLYI), Legacies of War, MILE, Mine Action Review, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).**

Since the Mine Ban community met in Siem Reap, a **Technical Note on Mine Action (TNMA)** has been issued to accompany the recently revised **IMAS 7:13 on Environmental Management and Climate Change in Mine Action**. Together, these documents provide a practical framework for the implementation of sound environmental practices across mine action.

Another valuable framework is the **Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan**, which includes several actions and indicators that incorporate environmental and climate change considerations. The commitments now need to be translated into implementation. In the interest of time, we will highlight three key indicators from the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

Indicator 1 of Action 6, tracks the percentage of affected States Parties that integrate environmental and climate considerations into national mine action strategies and work plans. Just as gender and diversity are mainstreamed in mine action, so too must environmental and climate factors be integrated across all stages of programming.

Indicator 2 of Action 19 concerns the number of affected States Parties that consider the environment in survey and clearance, and planning and prioritisation. A critical part of this is conducting environmental assessments to identify and mitigate potential harm.

In this context, we encourage affected States and their implementing partners to make use of the **Green Field Tool (GFT)** — an environmental assessment and screening tool developed by NPA and CEOPS. It is designed to support environmentally responsible planning and implementation of mine action activities, including the consideration of the potential risks from the impact of climate change on mine action activities and affected communities. The tool and its supporting guidance are available on the resources page of the environmentinmineaction.org website. Environmental assessments should ideally be conducted as early as possible in the planning process, including during programme design, community engagement, and non-technical survey, which has the added benefit of saving workdays and reducing costs.

Indicator 3 of Action 23 measures the percentage of extension requests that ensure consideration of climate and the environment. There is significant room for progress: of the nine Article 5 extension requests submitted to-date for consideration at 22MSP, only a few make reference to these issues, and none do so in a consistent or comprehensive manner.

To closing, we encourage delegates to explore resources available on the EIMA Working Group website, and for States and their partners to promote the need for consideration of climate and the environment, and share good practices, lessons learned, and challenges encountered in this area.

Thank you.