

Statement by MAG on Article 4

(Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Mister President,

Our sector is seeing a positive trend of improving efficiency and effectiveness in the survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants. This is mainly down to greater application of international good practice. But we still need to do more, faster, to stop cluster munitions taking lives and limbs, trapping communities in fear, and preventing women, girls, boys and men from being able to fulfil their potential in dignity and equality.

MAG welcomes the recommendations of this year's *Clearing the Cluster Munitions Remnants Report* and is proud to be part of its advisory board. We strongly encourage all stakeholders to apply the recommendations in the report in order to make the fastest progress towards Article 4 completion. Only four affected states are classed as having 'massive' or 'heavy' contamination by the Mine Action Review. In most others, completing survey and clearance should be possible within a few years, as long as good practice is applied fully and there is the right funding and political will.

As a community, we should draw lessons from the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We should ensure that as few extension requests as possible are sought, and where extensions are justified, they should be as short as possible. They must be based on sound completion plans, efficient and effective operational methodologies, demonstrable national ownership and strong international cooperation and assistance partnerships.

Mister President,

This convention marked an important leap forward in assistance to survivors and the families and communities of victims. As a community, we must ensure that our work under Article 4 is survivor sensitive. We can work closer together to ensure that the essential push for clearance completion also ensures that the enduring needs of survivors are met.

Finally, along with diversity, gender is explicitly at the forefront of MAG's new strategy. We have made some progress as a sector, especially in improving the extent to which we understand the gendered impact of contamination and clearance. The mine action community needs to continue to improve and hasten progress in our collective work on gender.

But overall, we have significant work to do to promote women's empowerment and achieve full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of mine action, especially in leadership. That must be our goal. We must not shy away and instead work harder, faster and closer together to achieve it.

Thank you.

ENDS