

**Comments on Chile's Article 4 Extension Request
Delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review
Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Part 2)
20-21 September 2021**

Thank you, Mr President.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review project.

We recognise that Chile had previously elected to first complete clearance of anti-personnel mines considered to be present in areas that posed a potential risk to civilians, before then focusing its efforts on cluster munition contamination. We warmly congratulate Chile on completing its mine clearance operations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in February 2020. However, it is now long overdue that Chile applies the same commitment to completing its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to which it became a State Party more than ten years ago.

Mine Action Review commends the detailed costed work plan that Chile submitted in August this year, to supplement its second interim request to extend its Article 4 deadline to 1 June 2023.

While no survey or clearance activities took place during 2020 or to date in 2021, it is a welcome development that Chile has committed its Armed Forces to conduct technical survey of remaining cluster munition contaminated areas in November and December this year and to complete the reports for the surveys in January and February 2022. We hope that the national funding will be made available for this, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mine Action Review supports Chile's plans to conduct technical survey to further clarify the extent of remaining cluster munition remnant contamination, which will help inform its planning for clearance and completion of its Article 4 obligations, including submission of a final extension request next year.

The current estimate of remaining cluster munition contaminated area, at almost 65km² across four military ranges, is likely to be an overestimate as some clearance has already been conducted in these areas by the military previously. However, as it is not known whether previous clearance was conducted according to international standards, Chile is required to undertake technical survey and clearance to make "every effort" to identify and clear all cluster munition-contaminated areas.

We also welcome that Chile issued a ministerial order this year, outlining the management structure within the government for the implementation of its international obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We encourage Chile to elaborate a gender and diversity policy and implementation plan, and note reference in Chile's 2020 Article 4 deadline extension request that the Ministry of National Defence will promote the incorporation of women to the teams that will conduct cluster munition clearance.

Thank you.