



Mine Action Review Statement

(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)

Item 10(c): Clearance and destruction of cluster munition remnants and risk education Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM, 30 August - 2 September 2022

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

In 2021, a global total of more than 151 square kilometres was cleared of cluster munition remnants – a new annual record and an increase of over twelve percent on the previous record set in 2020. More than 106,300 submunitions were destroyed during clearance, survey, and spot tasks. This is an impressive achievement, especially given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to negatively impact operations in several countries.

Clearance in the ten affected States Parties totalled almost 67.5km². While this represents 45% of global clearance, the 80,000 submunitions destroyed by States Parties accounts for three quarters of submunitions destroyed worldwide, which might suggest that cluster munition clearance was more evidence-based and targeted in States Parties.

The full findings and country profiles can be found in the *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022* report on the Mine Action Review website.

We have not yet heard clearance updates from three affected States Parties so far this week: Afghanistan, Mauritania, and Somalia, and would welcome updates on their progress to implement Article 4.

We would also like to take this opportunity to answer the question posed in the 10MSP Progress Report on how States Parties and other implementation actors can best support affected States with relatively manageable contamination to finish Article 4 obligations by their respective deadlines in order to avoid a request for extension.

Mine Action Review believes this requires:

- Concrete planning to accurately determine the number, size, and location of remaining cluster munition-contaminated areas and to calculate the expected time and resources required to address each of them.
- Survey and clearance methodology must be evidence-based and targeted, to ensure time and resources are used in the best possible way.
- We understand that both affected states and donors have to balance humanitarian priorities, and many cluster munition affected states also suffer from contamination from landmines and

other types of explosive ordnance. However, States Parties with cluster munition contamination must identify and disaggregate it from other types of contamination, in order to elaborate concrete plans to address it and fulfil their treaty obligations.

- Coordination is essential, led by national authorities, in collaboration with clearance operators and donors. In many countries, international funding is directly channelled through international demining NGOs, therefore clearance operators, as well as UN agencies, have a responsibility to work closely with national authorities to ensure that survey and clearance efforts are effectively supporting the operationalisation of national Article 4 completion planning. Coordination and effective communication should be supported through the establishment of Country Coalitions. There should be regular and honest updates on progress in land release efforts, including identifying challenges and shortfalls as they arise, so timely solutions can be found.
- It is often the last stretch that is most difficult. National authorities must maintain the momentum and political will. Clearance operators and donors must stay committed and coordinate efforts and funding in order to collectively help affected states across the finish line and ensure that no state is left behind.

Thank you.