

Norwegian People's Aid Statement on

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

Delivered by Anne Cawthorn, Director Strategic Resource Management

Thank you Mr. President,

NPA would like to extend our thanks to you, the Coordinators for Clearance and Risk Education, Guyana and Sweden, as well as the Implementation Support Unit, for investing efforts in engaging with affected States Parties and other relevant stakeholders to help support fulfillment of Article 4 obligations.

NPA underlines our commitment to support national authorities in actively using and implementing the Lausanne Action Plan with an aim to strengthen national mine action strategies, work plans, standards, and information management systems to enable effective, efficient, and inclusive land release operations and timely and meaningful implementation of Article 4.

We applaud the work done by the Analysis Group and those affected States Parties seeking extensions of their Article 4 deadlines this year, which is demonstrated in an overall greater quality of the extension requests. As per the results of both the 10MSP Progress Report Monitoring of the Lausanne Action Plan and Mine Action Review's parallel civil society monitoring of the Action Plan, all three of the affected States Parties seeking an extension this year have included detailed, costed multi-year work plans for the extension period, and we welcome that achievement.

National authorities should work to develop national standards compliant with the International Mine Action Standards, to achieve operational efficiency. They further should work to strengthen information management systems so as to collect and use gender and diversity sensitive and disaggregated reporting for needs based transparent prioritisation of tasks, and an appropriate survey and clearance response.

Strong national ownership is an important precondition for Article 4 fulfillment. Affected States Parties should demonstrate strong political will as well as commit national financial resources to timely survey and clearance efforts. We welcome that nine out of ten affected States Parties have demonstrated a high level of national ownership in implementing the Convention obligations in terms of financial commitments, according to Mine Action Review's monitoring.

We hope to see an increase to 100% with respect to the number of affected States Parties that have adopted a comprehensive mine action strategy to fulfill treaty implementation, as only 40% of affected States Parties meet this indicator at present, according to Mine Action Review.

Moreover, we hereby remind that Country Coalitions directly contribute to the successful fulfillment of the Article 4 obligations. We do not have to look far back to see evidence of how a Country Coalition between Montenegro and Norway contributed to successful and timely completion of clearance within the original 10-year deadline. Yet, there still are only two Country Coalitions under this Convention currently, between Lebanon and the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany. We hope to see regular meetings and continued engagement through the existing fora and encourage other affected States Parties to follow suit and form Country Coalitions in support of

fulfilling their Article 4 obligations as soon as possible. We further encourage donor states to respond to requests by affected States Parties to form Country Coalitions, such as proposed by Mauritania on several occasions and as yet remains unanswered .

Gender and diversity should be mainstreamed throughout the entire land release process from desk survey to handover of land to the affected communities. We also hope to see more resources invested in research and knowledge sharing of innovative approaches to survey and clearance, taking into account the environmental impact. NPA is available to share our research and practice with the sector. Currently, we are working on an innovation project funded by Norway to promote gender inclusivity and environmental sustainability through the development of personal protective equipment (PPE) better suited for women; and environmentally-friendly disposal methods of unserviceable PPE. We encourage other operators and national authorities to refer to and use our Guidance for Environmental Assessment and Management Tools aimed at identifying the positive and negative impacts that offices and mine action & disarmament operations have on the natural, physical environment as well as on the climate. The tools further aim to identify measures to mitigate (reduce, prevent, or eliminate) adverse impacts on climate and environment, enhance any positive effects, and to systematically monitor both impacts and the implementation of mitigation measures over time. NPA is currently revising our environmental management system for operations after having tested it in programmes, so an updated version will be ready soon to share with the sector. We invite donors, national authorities and others to join the environment in mine action working group, currently chaired by Mine Action Review and CEOBS, that meets online to discuss, learn and share best practices on environmental considerations in mine action. More immediately, we invite you to join an NPA and CEOBS side event on Wednesday 31 August 2022 at 13:15, where we will discuss more thoroughly embedding environmental protection in clearance operations and alignment with the Lausanne Action Plan.

Finally, we urge affected States Parties to follow an example set by Lebanon and include in their national strategies and work plans how they plan to address previously unknown contamination after fulfillment of their Article 4 obligations, as per Action 22 of the Lausanne Action Plan. Ensuring strong management of residual risk and a sustainable national capacity to address residual contamination is key to the full and sustainable implementation of the Convention.

Thank you.