

Mine Action Review Statement

(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)

Item 8: General Exchange of Views

Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM, 10–13 September 2024

Thank you, Madame President.

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

It is deeply regrettable that **Lithuania** has set in place steps to withdraw from the Convention, and there is still six months for it to reconsider its decision, which we hope it does. Not only do cluster munitions pose a risk at time of use, due to their wide-area effect, but unexploded submunitions are highly sensitive to movement, pressure, or tampering, and their significant explosive load makes them extremely hazardous to local communities and a greater and deadlier challenge to deminers during survey and clearance operations compared to other types of explosive remnants of war.

It is impossible to know what the extent of contamination from cluster munition remnants would look like now, had the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions never been adopted and entered into force, but it undoubtedly would be far greater, with countless more civilians killed and injured. The lives of civilians in conflict-affected countries have and continue to be made safer by the CCM, and States Parties must de-double efforts to champion and universalize the Convention in these conflict-prone times in which the upholding of international law is more important than ever.

