

**Mine Action Review Statement on Germany's Article 4 Extension Request
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Item 9: Presentation of deadline extension requests under Article 4 of the Convention and of the
analysis of these requests: Germany**

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.

As it is the first time we are taking the floor, we would like to thank the Mexican Presidency, an coordinators on clearance and risk reduction, Norway and Italy, and the coordinators on International cooperation and assistance, Lebanon and Switzerland, together with the ISU, for their collective and dedicated efforts to support Article 4 implementation. We thank the Article 4 Analysis group for the strong collaboration with expert organisations, on the analysis of the Article 4 extension requests.

We thank Germany for its comprehensive extension request.

While the amount of cluster munition remnant contaminated area remaining is only around 4km², the contaminated area also has extremely dense contamination from other types of explosive ordnance, greatly slowly down the pace of clearance.

We welcome Germany's strong national ownership in its Article 4 implementation and the fact that Germany is fully funding its cluster munition clearance, and has committed to do so through to the end of the work, albeit at an incredibly high cost.

If Germany can sustain its current clearance capacity and avoid running out of areas to be cleared due to limited controlled burning, it should be able to meet its second extended Article 4 deadline. However, we recognise that the latter is outside of Germany's control and if sufficient controlled burning is not possible because of the environmental regulations, it could result in a significant reduction in the clearance rate, or potentially stop operations altogether, severely impacting Germany's progress in Article 4 implementation.

With respect to the environment more broadly, we welcome that Germany's extension request includes consideration of environmental implications, as is the requirement under Article 4(6h) of the Convention.

We also welcome that, in response to feedback from the Article 4 Analysis Group, Germany included a short paragraph on gender and diversity, which includes reference to equal access to employment and the proportion of female personnel.

Lastly, we welcome that in this year's Article 7 transparency report, Germany included for the first time the area of land cleared annually in 2023, rather than solely the cumulative output. We also encourage Germany to do the same for the number of submunitions destroyed, which to-date has

only been reported as a cumulative figure, requiring the reader to calculate the annual figure by deduction, through referring to the previous year's report.

Thank you.