

**Statement on Lebanon's Extension Request  
(Agenda Item 3c, Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munitions remnants)  
(delivered by NPA on behalf of *Mine Action Review*)  
CCM Intersessional Meetings, 7–8 April 2025**

Thank you, Mr. President. I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review.

We thank Lebanon for presentation of its request for a four-year extension to its clearance deadline, which is its second request, and for comprehensively addressing the questions of the Article 4 Analysis Group on which Mine Action Review is an observer.

Mine Action Review recognises the significant effort made by Lebanon to prepare a detailed request in the face of extremely challenging financial, political, and security conditions, and we commend its continued commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Convention.

We acknowledge that new cluster munition remnant contamination has occurred since Lebanon's extension request was submitted, as a result of kick out from weapons and ammunition depots of non-State armed groups bombed by Israel. We note that Lebanese Authorities were unaware of the storage sites prior to the conflict and we commend LMAC's commencement of survey of the new contamination, which it plans to complete this year and then report back on as an addendum to its extension request. We also recognise that addressing this new contamination will require additional funding and resources. Lebanon also has an obligation under Article 3 to destroy any stockpiled cluster munitions it becomes aware of, even those held by a non-state armed group.

In light of the new contamination, Lebanon now believes it may now not be able to fulfil its Article 4 obligations within the requested four year extension and may require additional time.

Further factors, which will likely impact Lebanon's ability to meet its requested deadline include:

- ongoing funding shortfalls, which have unfortunately reduced operational capacity;
- the need to facilitate the safe return of displaced populations to their homes, which may require Lebanon prioritising release of areas with other ERW contamination;
- potential challenges addressing the 19 tasks identified as difficult terrain, including the potential need for specialized equipment and enhanced technical expertise in some of these tasks;
- clearance tasks frequently proving to be substantially larger than recorded in the database, due to fade-out.

Despite facing multiple challenges, Lebanon remains one of the top-performing mine action programs, according to Mine Action Review's annual assessment. It is one of the few affected countries to have a Mine Action Forum, which has created a platform for open discussion on challenges and improvement, and which has led to operational efficiency gains and strengthened coordination and collaboration.



We urge donors to continue supporting Lebanon in meeting its Article 4 obligations and to provide secured and predictable funding which is essential to ensure consistent land release operations.

Thank you.