



**Statement on Somalia'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 Somalia for presentation of its request for a four-year extension to its clearance deadline, which is its first request, and for comprehensively addressing the questions and feedback of the Article 4 Analysis Group on which Mine Action Review is an observer.

While recognising that Somalia is contaminated by many types of explosive ordnance, we emphasize the importance of Somalia ensuring that it makes every effort to identify and address cluster munition remnant (CMR) contamination, as part of its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mine Action Review emphasises the need for effective national mine action legislation and is concerned at the extended delay in parliamentary approval of the SEMA bill. We hope that the long-awaited Mine Action bill for SEMA is tabled and passed without further delay, as tentatively pledged in the additional information provided.

We note that Somalia's new National Mine Action Strategy is being developed with the support of the GICHD, and we look forward to seeing this published in due course. We welcome the fact that the new strategy plans to advocate for gender and diversity inclusion within survey and community liaison teams and also to consider clan affiliation.

Mine Action Review recognises that all current known or suspected CMR-affected areas are reported to be under the control of non-state armed groups, and that this has impeded access and the ability of Somalia to implement Article 4. We also understand that it is currently not possible to ascertain a timeframe for when safe access to contaminated areas may be possible and that the recent reports show a deterioration in the security situation.

The request states that current capacity will be sufficient to address CMR contamination, and that no stand-alone budget is required. It also notes that further capacity will be identified once the extent of actual contamination is defined. While we appreciate that Somalia is not yet in a position to provide detailed cost and time estimates to address the cluster munition-contaminated areas, as they are not currently accessible and have yet to be surveyed, we nonetheless encourage Somalia to detail other ways in which international donors can support its treaty implementation, such as through capacity development. This is important in light of Somalia's significant funding challenges for its mine action programme.

Finally, we welcome Somalia's assurances that it will submit its Article 7 reports covering the 2023 and 2024 reporting periods, and urge Somalia to return to compliance with this obligation by 30 April this year at the latest.

Thank you.