

**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 3(c): Clearance and Destruction of Cluster Munitions remnants  
Intersessional Meetings Convention on Cluster Munitions  
Geneva, 7-8 April 2025**

**Delivered by  
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Thank you, Mr. President,

As this is the first time NPA is taking the floor, please allow me to extend our thanks to you, the committee coordinators, Italy and France, as well as the ISU on your efforts in support of the Article 4 implementation.

As an operator that currently conducts cluster munition remnants clearance in several countries and incorporates capacity development as an integral part of our programmes and operations, we would like to highlight that in order to successfully fulfill the clearance obligations, affected States Parties need to demonstrate strong national ownership, accurate understanding of contamination and realistic but ambitious completion plans; their national standards need to be developed based on the International Mine Action Standards, with a strong information management system in place and transparent and accurate reporting; gender and diversity and climate and environment considerations need to be integrated into mine action responses; and capacity development of national authorities needs to be prioritized to ensure strong present and residual contamination management.

NPA is committed to supporting national authorities in actively implementing the Lausanne Action Plan with the aim to strengthen the mentioned crucial aspects to enable effective, efficient, and inclusive land release operations and timely and meaningful implementation of Article 4 obligations.

Completion is about affected States Parties fulfilling their time-bound clearance obligations, but it is important this is achieved in a meaningful and responsible way. Mainstreaming gender and diversity and including environment and climate considerations in all aspects of mine action response is therefore a prerequisite.

Gender and diversity in mine action not only opens up economic opportunities for women but also helps to challenge and change social norms and empowers women to participate in the development of their societies. Gender inclusion in survey and clearance and in risk education ensures that our mine action response reaches out to not some, but all from affected communities. Only then can we ensure that our efforts are effective and leave no one behind.

With the climate and nature crisis, we all have to reduce the impact from our land release work, plan better for extreme weather and ultimately deliver better outcomes for affected communities. To

support this work, NPA has just launched our innovative environmental assessment tool: the green field tool. This tool can be used by operators and national authorities, and provides a standardized and practical approach for environmental assessment and management in mine action. We are rolling the tool out in our own programmes, it is now accessible for all and can be found on the website of the Environmental Issues in Mine Action Working Group.

Finally, let me underline that we cannot address the clearance of cluster munitions without addressing their use and devastating impacts that affected communities witness on a daily basis. The goal of the Convention is clear – to rid the world of these indiscriminate weapons. For each new cluster munition being dropped, it takes us one step further away from our shared goal. Any use, by any actor and under any circumstances remains unacceptable.

Thank you.