

Mine Action Review Statement (delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)
Agenda item 10c: Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants
CCM Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, 16–19 September 2025

Thank you, Madam. Chair.

In 2024, a **record 228km² was cleared of cluster munition remnants (CMR) globally—up 18% on 2023—with over 133,600 submunitions destroyed worldwide. States Parties cleared 84km²**, which represents 37% of the global total by area.

The five most heavily contaminated States in the world—**Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Ukraine, and Vietnam** cleared **around 90%** of recorded worldwide clearance. **Lao PDR** again led the world, clearing **71.7km²**—the highest annual total recorded in any State Party since the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008—and destroying **over 71,000** submunitions.

This progress is welcome, but shouldn't be used to mask underlying problems in Article 4 implementation in a number of States Parties to the CCM. **Afghanistan, Chad, Chile, and Somalia** conducted no cluster munition clearance in 2024. Several States with relatively limited contamination have submitted **repeated extension requests** to their clearance deadlines. **No State Party is on track** to meet its Article 4 obligations by the **Third Review Conference in Vientiane next year**. This should be of concern to the convention community.

Looking ahead, the Fourth Review Conference in 2031 will be another important milestone in the life of the Convention. Completion by the Fourth Review Conference is achievable for States Parties with medium or light contamination, namely **Afghanistan, Chad, Chile, Germany, Lebanon, Mauritania, Somalia, and South Sudan**, if four things happen now.

1. **Time-bound, costed national completion plans** with annual work plans for release of cluster munition-contaminated areas.
2. **Evidence-based survey and clearance** to drive efficiency.
3. **International funding** for affected States requiring support for Article 4 implementation.
4. **Political will and establishment of country coalitions**, with the affected State, donors, and implementers coordinating efforts to align funding and hold partners to shared delivery plans.

We urge donors to **fund the five extension requests before you this week** and to address **outstanding requests**—including **Chad's**, which remains unsupported. International support must also be maintained to **Iraq, South Sudan, and Lao PDR**. With the exception of **Germany**, and potentially **Chile** too, affected States **will not meet their clearance obligations without international assistance and coordinated effort**.

Let us turn this record year for clearance into a record of completion for the CCM: credible plans, coalitions that deliver, and funding tied to measurable results.

Lastly, Mine Action Review welcomes the working paper from Italy and France on protecting the environment during clearance. We hope that it serves as a useful resource as States Parties consider elaboration of the next five-year action plan under Lao PDR's upcoming presidency of the Third Review Conference.

Thank you.