

**NPA Statement on Agenda Item 10(c): Clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants  
13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties Convention on Cluster Munitions  
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According to Mine Action Review's Clearing cluster munition remnants report 2025, global clearance efforts saw a significant rise in 2024. A total of 227.90km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land was cleared, and 133,654 unexploded submunitions were safely destroyed. Each square meter cleared represents land returned for safe use, and each submunition destroyed means one less threat to civilians.

Despite this progress, the report highlights that no State Party is currently on track to fulfil its Article 4 obligations by the Third Review Conference of the CCM in 2026. But it also notes that with sufficient and sustained funding, eight States Parties - Afghanistan, Chad, Chile, Germany, Lebanon, Mauritania, Somalia and South Sudan – could meet their clearance obligations by the Fourth Review Conference in 2031.

It is vital that States Parties collaborate through completion initiatives to ensure the timely and meaningful fulfilment of Article 4 obligations. This is a shared responsibility, and achieving the Convention's goals requires strong national ownership, committed efforts from affected states, and long-term, stable support from those in a position to provide it.

We know how most funding for mine action continues to be concentrated to a limited number of countries, and NPA would welcome an initiative to start exploring the establishing of a voluntary trust fund for Article 4 implementation under the CCM. This would allow states that don't traditionally fund mine action, or lack the capacity to manage clearance grants, to contribute smaller amounts toward a collective funding pool. Such a mechanism could help ensure that overlooked affected states are not left behind and could also incentivize universalization among states currently outside the Convention. This idea has already been acknowledged in the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan under the APMBC for Article 5 implementation. It is now more important than ever to bring this fund to life—and to consider the relevance for the CCM as well.

NPA would also like to draw attention to the importance of environmental considerations in clearance activities. It is key that the activities implemented under Article 4, reflect the current global climate and environmental crisis, and how conflict affected populations are impacted. NPA is welcoming the working paper submitted by Italy and France addressing this. NPA encourages national authorities and operators to take concrete steps to reduce their environmental and climate footprint and integrating assessment tools like the *Green Field Tool*. This *tool* supports climate risk assessments, identifies

mitigation measures to reduce environmental harm from survey and clearance, and monitors impact over time. NPA hopes to see environmental considerations as a priority area at the Review Conference in Lao PDR in 2026 and in the new action plan.

Lastly, we cannot address the importance of clearance without also addressing the challenges we are facing today with the new use of cluster munitions. Clearance activities lie at the heart of this Convention. But our goal of ridding the world of cluster munitions contamination is further away with each cluster munition dropped, despite clearance level reaching its highest level this year. The CCM was established to prevent future use of these devastating weapons, and clearance operations are part of CCM to prevent the deadly legacy of use poses a threat to civilians.

Considering certain countries recently having withdrawn or considering withdrawing from the CCM and the APMBC, it may be pertinent to remind ourselves that these conventions are global treaties and that most affected countries are outside Europe. These conventions are not just words – they save lives every day, with each explosive remnant removed from the ground. Abandoning these conventions means abandoning this life-saving work and turning away from our shared commitment of global solidarity to “leave no one behind”.