

**NPA Statement on Agenda item 9f) - International Cooperation and Assistance
Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane, 14-18 September 2026**

**Delivered by
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Thank you, Mr. President,

Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance is fundamental to achieving the Convention's goal to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions once and for all. It reflects the importance of working together for a shared purpose and the progress we can achieve through mutual support. In these challenging times, meaningful cooperation and engagement by all States Parties is crucial.

Over the years, sustained financial and technical support, as well as political will, have helped affected States Parties clear vast areas of contaminated land, destroy stockpiles, and contributed to build the national capacity needed to address the remaining contamination. Since the Convention's entry into force, eight States Parties have fulfilled their Article 4 clearance obligations, and all stockpiles held by States Parties have been destroyed. These are achievements made possible only through the determination of affected States Parties and the continued commitment of donors, operators, and partners working alongside them. These results are proof that investment in mine action delivers real, lasting change, and they should give us confidence to continue and strengthen this cooperation in the years ahead.

Sustaining this momentum will require continued, joint efforts. The challenging funding landscape and current global political situation demand a further strengthening of these efforts and a steady promotion of effective cooperation between all States Parties and partners. To support knowledge sharing and good practice as a key ingredient to successful implementation, States Parties should engage in completion initiatives to ensure timely and meaningful fulfilment of Article 4 obligations. We welcome and encourage initiatives such as the country coalition approach in Lebanon and coordinating platform in Lao PDR and call on more States Parties to establish and support such efforts.

As we see aid budgets declining, progress on survey and clearance is at risk. Where possible, affected States should allocate adequate national resources to mine action, and all States Parties in a position to do so, to provide sustained international assistance. Predictable and flexible multi-year funding arrangements are particularly important for enabling effective planning, maintaining national capacities, and ensuring that progress towards completion can be sustained. It is also time to explore new funding mechanisms, such as a voluntary trust fund for Article 4 implementation which would help ensure that

affected states struggling to secure funding to meet their clearance obligations are not left behind. The realities on the ground only underscore this.

According to the latest Monitor, several affected States Parties - Afghanistan, Chad, Chile, Mauritania, and Somalia - have experienced funding gaps that may affect their ability to meet their Article 4 clearance deadlines. While responding to new emerging crises is undoubtedly critical, this must not come at the expense of sustained support for long-term commitments. In the spirit of cooperation that defines this Convention, we must ensure that no State Party is left behind.

Finally, implementation of the Convention's obligations must be done in a meaningful and inclusive manner, and gender and diversity considerations must be integrated into all our efforts. Climate and environmental considerations should be taken into account at every stage of clearance, which is increasingly carried out in contexts affected by climate change and environmental degradation. We encourage donor states to support affected States Parties in integrating these cross-cutting considerations into mine action programmes.

Achieving the Convention's objectives requires meaningful cooperation and active engagement from all States Parties, and Article 6 remains a cornerstone of that collective and cooperative undertaking. NPA, with its long-standing experience in dealing with cluster munition contamination, stands ready to do its part, and we look forward to engaging with both donors and affected states in this work.

Thank you.