

## Statement by MAG on Article 5

### (Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Mr President,

I had not intended to take the floor, and so thank you for your indulgence. But, having heard the statement from our esteemed colleagues from DRC, we would like to speak out to add our support to their statement.

Contamination from mines still has a negative impact on people and development in DRC. We must therefore work collectively to address this, along with other contamination from cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war. MAG has worked in DRC for a number of years and so we see the impact of contamination, and the need for mine action, on a daily basis.

In response to a request by the national authorities, MAG and various other organisations worked together to complete a National Landmine Contamination Survey (NLCS), the results of which were published in early 2014 and formed the basis of the Article 5 extension request. This was the first time the extent of mine and cluster munition contamination in DRC was clearly mapped and, in our view, it was an excellent example of partnership. We congratulate DRC for this, and the production of a clear and practical survey outcome. There are just over 120 mined areas in eight provinces. Clearance of these areas is achievable, but it needs partnership and greater international funding commitment, including to international NGOs, if we expect DRC to achieve its goals of being free of mines and cluster munitions. We must also continue to address ERW contamination, which also has a human impact.

The Maputo Declaration gave a renewed sense of commitment and urgency to clearance. MAG attaches significant importance to ensuring that minefields in places like Angola and DRC are not forgotten. The way that we approach this will affect or progress and we believe firmly that continue to develop partnership approaches will give us the best chance of success. We nevertheless need to maintain and enhance international cooperation and assistance so that we can collectively respond to the need in sub-Saharan Africa that was so clearly articulated by our colleague from the DRC delegation.

I thank you Mr President.

**END**