

Statement by the Gender Working Group on the informal presentation of requests submitted under Article 5

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Thank you Mr. President.

I am speaking on behalf of the Gender Working Group, which includes the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, DanChurchAid, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mine Action Review, Mines Action Canada, Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid and SEHLAC.

We commend Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, DR Congo, Senegal and South Sudan for including gender and diversity considerations in their extension requests, albeit to varying degrees. All requests provide gender and age disaggregated data, usually for casualties and for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education beneficiaries. Some requests also provide gendered analysis of risk-taking behaviour. Sadly, there are no concrete examples of how this data and analysis informs operations, for instance how risk education materials are tailored to respond to gendered risk-taking behaviours or how different groups are included in non-technical survey. We would like to remind all States Parties that gender mainstreaming is not just the right thing to do, but it is essential for efficient and effective mine action operations.

Each request includes slightly different aspects of gender mainstreaming. For instance, some acknowledge the relevance of gender and diversity for mine awareness and victim assistance activities, while others focus on women's employment in mine action. These are all useful aspects and we commend the states for including them. We also encourage a more systematic approach to gender mainstreaming across all activities and indicators in the Oslo Action Plan, including in non-technical survey activities, and considering women's meaningful participation in delegations. If the Oslo Action Plan is to succeed, cherry-picking is not an option. In this regard, we welcome the revision of the Guide to Reporting to include gender considerations and we recommend that all states approve and use this tool to ensure a systematic approach to reporting.

We encourage states to share good practices and discuss challenges regarding gender mainstreaming including through national platforms or other coordination forums. The only way to advance this conversation is to learn from each other. We would like to highlight the good practices in the extension request submitted by Colombia. We welcome Colombia's inclusion of dedicated gender and diversity sections, as well as an annex with specific gender mainstreaming *measures*, which includes a broad spectrum of activities, from victim assistance and risk education, to employment in demining, safeguarding, data collection and analysis. And the key aspect to highlight here is *measures*. In this learning process, it is important that we avoid making generic statements or try to justify the status quo, but we should report on the *measures* undertaken or planned to mainstream gender.

Finally, the aim of the Oslo Action Plan was to bring discussions about gender from the side session to the plenary. The Gender Working Group recognises the efforts of the gender focal points in the

Committees and looks forward to continue working with them to ensure gender and diversity remain at the forefront of discussions. We appreciate the challenges we are all facing meeting online and with an adjusted programme of work. We hope that in future meetings more time is allocated for exchanging views on this important topic in relation to all relevant aspects of the Convention.

Thank you Mr. President.

ENDS