

**Mine Action Review Statement on Clearance
Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
16-20 November 2020**

Thank you, Mr President.

According to Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines 2020* report, in 2019 a global total of more than **131 square kilometres was cleared** of anti-personnel mines, with more than 96% of recorded clearance occurring in States Parties to the APMBC. Almost **164,000 emplaced anti-personnel mines were destroyed** during annual clearance and EOD operations, in addition to 39,700 anti-vehicle mines.

We warmly congratulate completion of landmine clearance by **Chile** in February 2020 and by the **United Kingdom** this month, with respect to its completion of demining in the Falkland Islands. Argentina, which claims sovereignty over the Malvinas, has also fulfilled its Article 5 obligations, by virtue of completion of clearance in the **Falkland Islands**.

This leaves 55 states and 3 other areas with mined areas under their jurisdiction or control, of which 33 are States Parties. States Parties **Mauritania** and **Mali** have been added to Mine Action Review's list this year.

According to Mine Action Review's estimates, of the 33 affected States Parties, only 3 have **massive contamination** and only 5 have **heavy contamination**. The remainder have medium or light, so less than 20km². But despite this, only 3 States Parties are currently on track to meet their existing Article 5 deadlines – Peru, Oman, and Zimbabwe.

We urge **Eritrea** to submit an extension to its 31 December 2020 Article 5 deadline for approval this week, in order to remain in compliance with Article 5.

We also encourage **Cameroon, Mali, and Nigeria** to report on contamination from anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature under Article 7 and to request new Article 5 deadlines to address this new contamination, which is the result of use of improvised mines by non-state armed groups.

The **slow pace of survey and clearance** in too many States Parties is of real concern and we see requests for repeated Article 5 deadline extensions by those states with relatively limited contamination and who aren't impacted by conflict or new use.

With five years still available to achieve the 2025 target that the mine ban community committed to in Maputo in 2014 and recommitted to in Oslo in 2019, many States Parties could still fulfil their Article 5 obligations by the end of 2025. But progress will require **strong national ownership, elaboration of concrete action plans, application of efficient survey and clearance methodology, and sufficient and sustained** funding through to completion.

The **Oslo Action Plan**, adopted by States Parties last November, encompasses all these elements, and can be viewed as a **blueprint for implementation**, supporting States Parties and their implementing partners to reach completion in the best way possible – efficiently, effectively, safely, and inclusively. It is not just getting to completion, but *how* we get there, and it's excellent to see **gender and diversity** firmly embedded in the Action Plan. Mine Action Review aligns itself to the statement of the Gender Working Group, of which we are a member.

For the first time, the Action Plan has action items with measurable indicators. Members of the

Coordinating Committee have established a baseline value for the Oslo Action Plan indicators, based on information provided by States Parties themselves.

In addition, Mine Action Review is providing civil society monitoring and analysis of the implementation of **24 of the Oslo Action Plan indicators relating to survey and clearance**. This is based not just on Article 7 and national authority data, but on our broader research.

The **provisional results of our monitoring are on the Mine Action Review website** (www.mineactionreview.org) and will be finalised following 18MSP, and we welcome feedback from national authorities and other stakeholders on the results of the provisional assessment, for our consideration.

The Oslo Action Plan must be translated into committed progress on the ground in *all* affected States Parties. Affected States Parties should convene a meeting with their implementing partners to specifically discuss the results of Oslo Action Plan monitoring and what remedial measures are needed in order to meet those Action Points and indicators in which they're currently falling short. Ideally, this could be convened under **National Mine Action Platforms-style forums** (Oslo Action Plan Action #44), which we know are effective in improving coordination and identifying and overcoming stumbling blocks in Article 5 implementation. Progress between now and the Fifth Review conference in 2024 will require honest reflection and collectively challenging ourselves to do better; as national authorities, clearance operations, and donors. Mine Action Review's ***Clearing the Mines 2020*** country reports can serve as a good tool for discussion to facilitate such dialogue.

Thank you.