



**Mine Action Review Comments on Extension Request submitted process for Afghanistan
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 3: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 18–20 June 2024**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Mine Action Review.

Afghanistan stands as one of the most heavily contaminated States Parties, where the humanitarian impact on the civilian population is among the most severe.

Under international law, in each State the entity legally bound by the APMBC that must comply with the prohibition on the use of anti-personnel mines and must clear all anti-personnel mines from mined areas under its jurisdiction or control is the entity that has effective control of sovereign territory. Whatever one's view of the Taliban, they are the entity that has control over Afghan territory and the mined areas and manages Afghanistan's mine action programme. The Government of Afghanistan is therefore responsible for the implementation of Article 5.

We understand that the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) has submitted a formal request to extend Afghanistan's Article 5 clearance deadline. We therefore call on the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, with the support of the ISU, to respect international law and allow States Parties to consider this extension. The request that has been submitted details the extent of contamination and existing and planned survey and clearance efforts. The issue of recognition of the Taliban Government by the United Nations and individual States Parties is a separate matter from treaty application and implementation, just as it is under international humanitarian law and should not obstruct the government of Afghanistan from fulfilling its legal obligations under the Convention, including adherence to the Article 5 extension request process. It is crucial States Parties avoid politicising our treaty.

Thank you.