



**Mine Action Review Comments on Extension Request submitted by Guinea Bissau  
(delivered by NPA on behalf of Mine Action Review)**

**Agenda Item 4: Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
APMBC Intersessional Meetings, 18–21 June 2024**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

We thank Guinea-Bissau for presentation of its three-year extension request, during which it plans to conduct a national survey to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The extension request indicates that because the extent of the contamination is not yet known, Guinea-Bissau does not exclude, depending on the results of the national survey, the possibility it will need to submit a follow-on extension request in 2027 to complete clearance of its territory.

However, the extension request also indicates that the majority of contamination is likely to be from explosive remnants of war (ERW), as opposed to mines. The NTS, planned to be completed by end of 2026, will therefore likely identify only a small number of mined areas. With sufficient support, Guinea-Bissau may well be able to clear any mined areas identified by the end of 2027 i.e. within the extension request period. We encourage Guinea-Bissau to ensure it prioritises TS and clearance of mined areas, above areas containing only ERW, unless there is a compelling reason not to - such as greater risk to civilians posed in some areas containing ERW, compared to areas containing mines. Prioritisation of mined area identified will enable Guinea-Bissau to fulfil its Article 5 obligations as soon as possible. Guinea-Bissau should not use the extension request process as a way of securing funds to address ERW contamination. Once any mined areas have been addressed, the planning and fundraising for areas contaminated only with ERW and not with mines, will need to be addressed outside of the APMBC Article 5 process.

For this reason, it will be important that during NTS, Guinea-Bissau ensures that areas of anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination or mixed contamination are clearly disaggregated from those areas solely containing anti-vehicle (AV) mines or other types of explosive ordnance contamination which are not covered by the Convention, such as ERW.

Lastly, we welcome that in its extension request Guinea-Bissau indicates that from 2024, a substantial contribution from the government will allow CAAMI to pay all of its staff, recruit missing positions, allow adequate equipment, and enable operational deployment of the technical teams. Has this national funding been secured for 2024? Has any of it been received by CAAMI yet? We recognise that Guinea-Bissau will also need to mobilise additional funding to implement the updated action-plan submitted in this extension request, and hope that donors support Guinea-Bissau to enable it to fulfil its Article 5 obligations.

If the NTS reveals only a small amount of mined area, then Guinea-Bissau may well be one of the next States Parties to fulfil its clearance obligations.

Thank you.