



**Mine Action Review statement on Clearance
(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.

We are deeply concerned that **Eritrea** has yet to submit an Article 5 deadline extension request and is not yet present at these Intersessional Meetings. We call on Eritrea to submit its request without further delay, so that it can be reviewed by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation, and then considered by States Parties at the Fifth Review Conference. This is critical to avoid Eritrea returning to non-compliance with Article 5 when its clearance deadline expires on 31 December 2024.

We warmly welcome **Oman's** update that it is on track to complete verification efforts and fulfil its Article 5 obligation by its deadline of 1 February 2025.

Lastly, we welcome the statements from **Cambodia** and **Thailand** which referenced the need for cooperation for the demining of minefields along the shared border. Clearance of anti-personnel mine contamination as soon as possible, including on the border, is a key part of both States Parties' Article 5 obligations. We heard yesterday in plenary that Cambodia will be requesting an extension to its current clearance deadline of 31 December 2025, in order for Cambodia to address all remaining mined area – both on the border and outside of the 7km² border zone. Thailand, which has far less remaining anti-personnel mined area in comparison to Cambodia, is fast approaching completion and will soon have cleared all other mined areas, which will only leave the border minefields for it to complete. It is therefore imperative that Cambodia and Thailand elaborate a concrete agreement between the two States without further delay, which permits for demining to take place on both sides of the border, including those areas which have yet to be delineated or demarked. The Mine Ban Convention community wants to be able to celebrate a concrete, signed, agreement between the two States Parties when we meet in Siem Reap for the Fifth Review Conference in November. Doing so will not only enable Cambodia and Thailand to fulfil their respective Article 5 obligations, but will also provide an excellent example of cross-country collaboration to other States Parties with border minefields.

Thank you.