

**NPA Statement on  
5. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings  
Geneva, 18-20 June 2024**

**Delivered by Dagmar Matúšů, Advisor**

Thank you, President,

We are at a point in time where we see increased politicization and securitization of the humanitarian space, with double standards jeopardizing the very point of the principled application of humanitarian law. The APMBC is a landmark humanitarian disarmament treaty that came out of the immense humanitarian harm caused by anti-personnel mines. By outlawing these weapons, the Convention has saved millions of lives and limbs over the decades not only by clearing the weapons already used, but also by preventing all anti-personnel mines from ever being used, putting a stop to meaningless vicious circle of contamination, clearance, and subsequent recontamination.

The success of the Convention must not be taken for granted, and as with any international treaties as well as norms of international humanitarian law, it exists and fulfils its purpose by states defending it, speaking up against violations and protecting the rule-based humanitarian order we all want to be part of.

In the Oslo Action Plan adopted at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo in 2019, measures to ensure compliance are clearly included, with three strong actions to promote compliance with the Convention, in particular Action #48.

NPA is deeply concerned about Eritrea's lack of engagement with the Treaty and this requires urgent reengagement on the issue to ensure that compliance is upheld.

We note with grave concern the developments in the world today of increased use of anti-personnel landmines including those of an improvised nature. This increased use has also led to a growing number of casualties. We strongly condemn the use of anti-personnel mines by non-States parties – Myanmar, Russia, and North Korea, and by Non-State Armed Groups. Anti-personnel mines are pointless weapons, that have no use in advancing military strategies, but kill and maim civilians, block humanitarian access, prevent return of displaced populations and hinder reconstruction and development. There is no point to use these illegal weapons with an established norm and stigma, apart from maliciously harming civilians for decades to come. This is unacceptable.

This Convention is a cornerstone of the international humanitarian law and requires that principled compliance with all its articles is ensured without exception.

Thank you.