

JOINT CROSS-REGIONAL STATEMENT ON GENDER & DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING PROGRESS UNDER
THE OSLO ACTION PLAN and LOOKING AHEAD to the SIEM REAP ANGKOR ACTION PLAN
AT THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (APMBC)

29 NOVEMBER 2024

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom, as well as

The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Peru, Thailand, and my own country **Japan,** who are also serving as APMBC Gender Focal Points this year.

We are driven by a shared commitment to advancing gender equality and addressing the diverse needs of affected communities within the framework of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Our collective efforts aim to amplify the voices of those who have long been underrepresented and to ensure that our policies and actions reflect the diverse experiences and needs of everyone affected by anti-personnel mines. By integrating gender equality and promoting inclusivity, we strive to enhance the effectiveness of our humanitarian efforts, ensure equitable access to resources and support, and uphold the fundamental principles of justice and human rights for all.

There is significant evidence that gender mainstreaming in mine action concerns all four pillars of the Women Peace and Security Agenda: participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery. Therefore, mine action already makes a substantial contribution to the WPS Agenda.

The Oslo Action Plan has delivered significant progress towards more effective and inclusive mine action over the past five years, and the draft Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) builds on this progress.

By adopting gender equality and inclusion of the diverse needs and experiences of affected populations as a best practice in the Oslo Action Plan, creating a specific action

of the need for mainstreaming of gender and diverse needs, and mainstreaming these points throughout much of the Plan, States Parties underscored the significance of gender and diversity considerations for effective mine action to all stakeholders.

Mine action donors, affected states, operators, and other actors in the sector have taken forward these principles and made progress towards more effective and inclusive mine action.

However, more work needs to be done. And for many of us, more work is also needed to achieve gender mainstreaming at all stages of their mine action programming.

Strengthening the leadership roles and participation of women in international peace and security processes is necessary to achieve sustainable conflict resolution. Transformative progress on the WPS Agenda also requires consideration of the role of men and boys, who can serve as agents of change.

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda, including the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, is central to placing gender equality at the heart of global peace and security. It is closely aligned with the 2030 Development Agenda, in particular with SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, and SDG 16 on promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies. The Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan renews these commitments and incorporates lessons learned from the Oslo Action Plan by strengthening the synergies between the APMBC and international frameworks such as the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), World Health Organization and the 2030 Agenda, recognising and highlighting mine action's contributions.

Leveraging these agendas will improve our mutual efforts and effectiveness in working towards sustainable peace for all.

We call upon all States Parties to implement actions related to gender and diversity needs in the draft Action Plan and apply the working principle of integrating and mainstreaming gender, age and disability and other diversity factors and ensuring consideration for the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in order to build on the progress made under this topic during the Oslo Action Plan Implementation period. This progress has been summarised in a working paper submitted by the Gender Focal Points to the Convention which is available on the APMBC website.

Thank you.