

Mine Action Review statement

Thematic Session - Integrating Gender and the Diverse Needs of Affected Communities in Operational Planning and Prioritization

Intersessional Meetings, 22–24 June 2021

Thank you for a very interesting panel session and presentation, on this important topic.

In 2019, Mine Action Review introduced a separate criterion on 'Gender and Diversity', as part of our assessment of the performance of the national survey and clearance programmes of States Parties, in our annual '*Clearing the Mines*' report.

We identified three key areas to consider with regards to gender and diversity and Article 5 implementation: first, the need for clear policies, strategies, and standards; second, action in relation to survey and clearance; and third, employment opportunities and the gender split of staff, including in managerial and operations positions.

This year's research will be published ahead of 19MSP, but last year's *Clearing the Mines* report found that of the 29 States Parties assessed by Mine Action Review on Gender and Diversity, only 2 States Party's performance was assessed to be 'very good', 1 was assessed as 'good', 15 as 'average', 4 as 'poor', and 7 as 'very poor'.

We were, however, pleased to see an improvement in the availability and quality of information on gender provided by national authorities and their implementing partners, compared to the previous year, when we started to ask questions on gender for the first time.

Mine Action Review also conducted parallel civil society monitoring of the Oslo Action Plan actions and indicators related to survey and clearance, based on all available data. With respect to gender and diversity, we found that for Action 3, which requires that the needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of the convention and mine action programmes, 48% of affected States Parties assessed had either a work plan or a strategy that integrates gender and takes into account diverse needs. And for Action 18, which calls for the establishment of evidence-based, accurate baselines of contamination, the same percentage (48%) of States Parties were assessed to have established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys, and men.

Both our country report assessments and our Oslo Action Plan monitoring reveal plenty of scope for improvement. We hope to see the scores rise year-on-year, as States Parties improve their understanding of what is required and are further encouraged to mainstream gender and diversity through implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. In so doing, they will enjoy the support of Gender Focal Points within the Convention's committees and from civil society, including through the Gender and Diversity Working group, which Mine Action Review currently co-chairs.

Finally, it is also pertinent to note that we continue to see, based on information on measures national authorities are taking, that diversity in mine action programming lags considerably behind action on gender. It is essential that diversity considerations are understood and mainstreamed, alongside gender, within mine action programmes.