Thank you Mr Chair.

A major challenge in Angola is improving data on activities conducted to achieve the objectives of Article 5 through humanitarian demining under the leadership of CNIDAH, and improving data on verifications for infrastructure development conducted under the leadership of the CED. We thank Angola for preparing and submitting this request. While not all the activities planned for the previous extension period have been carried out, we note some progress.

Among the positive points:

- Non-technical survey was completed in 12 provinces, thus offering a better picture of contamination in part of the country. Fifteen years after joining the Treaty, Angola is finally distancing itself from inflated contamination figures, and its estimate of the size of contamination is becoming more realistic. The request shows Angola’s intention to continue to apply the land release methodology.
- Steps were taken to reconcile data from the CED and data from CNIDAH.
- Steps were taken to reconcile data from clearance operators and the CNIDAH database.

Among the points requiring improvements:

- Angola must continue to improve its database, program management and quality management, in order to be in a better position to attract donors.
- A work plan must be presented that includes annual milestones.
- No Article 7 report has been submitted in the last three years -- Angola should comply with its obligation to report annually, thus showcasing efforts made on survey and clearance, and generating a better understanding of its activities by potential donors.
- The current annual funding available in Angola is less than 20% of what is reportedly needed to finish the job by 2025, so we call on donors to work closely with Angola and to strengthen their partnerships. The request mentions two roundtables with donors in the next two years, and we wonder if it would be possible to proceed with a greater sense of urgency.
Angola usually contributes financially to its own mine action program. We would welcome information on whether Angola intends to continue to do so during the extension period. Please disaggregate national funding used for humanitarian demining under Article 5 from national funding used to conduct verifications for infrastructure development. National funding provided in the past appeared to be almost exclusively in support of infrastructure projects. While this work is necessary, it does not address the provincial minefields that affect rural and poor communities.

Thank you.