



As delivered

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(15-18 June 2026)

**Statement under agenda item 3. Cooperation and Assistance: Advancing our Shared
Commitments Through Strengthened Partnerships, National Mine Action Platforms and
Coordinated Donor Engagement**

Delivered by UNMAS

Geneva, 15 June 2026

Ms. President¹, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)².

Effective cooperation and coordination is demonstrated when a group's combined efforts generate results that exceed the sum of their individual components.

Across contexts, the UN works with national authorities, communities, NGOs and commercial partners to strengthen cooperation and coordination. From our experience, success hinges on three key elements: national leadership, sustained international engagement, and a neutral facilitator to bring people together, foster alignment and build capacity to address gaps.

¹ H.E. Ms. Eunice M. Tembo Luambia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the States Parties.

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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In Nigeria, UNMAS helped the Government craft its first mine action strategy for 2027-2031, setting out a road map to meet its Convention obligations. Concurrently, UNMAS is supporting national authorities to operationalize the Mine Action Centre, ensuring the strategy can be implemented effectively.

In Libya, representatives from ten countries met during the second annual Libya Mine Action Support Group hosted by Italy and the UN in Tripoli to provide coordinated international support to Libyan-led efforts to address explosive contamination and strengthen civilian safety.

In Iraq, the UNMAS Partnership Model marked a major shift toward nationally owned clearance capacity. Through a not-for-profit grant modality, experienced international NGOs were paired with Iraqi NGOs to build the institutional, managerial, and operational foundations needed for clearance. The model recognizes that national actors must first develop strong systems—leadership, management, quality assurance, risk management, and resource mobilization—before focusing on clearance. By prioritizing capacity development, the approach left behind professional, nationally led clearance organizations that are safer, more effective, and more sustainable over the long term.

In Lebanon, the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) in a long-standing relationship with UNDP, has analyzed current explosive ordnance risks. And in close cooperation with national and international partners has developed new national standards on topics such as reducing EO risks within debris management tasks and how to address newly found types of EO. The LMAC and UNDP will be socializing these standards in the coming weeks. This demonstrates how national authorities meet the challenges of evolving situations and the UN ability to support these evolutions in a mutually respectful partnership.

These examples illustrate a common principle: national leadership and capacity are a must. It is the only sustainable solution to the challenges we face, and international partners have a responsibility to coordinate their support to strengthen, assist and achieve capable and sustainable



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national mine action ownership. Of course, affected States have the leading role to ensure the necessary focus, resources and will to deliver on their own mine action strategy and agenda.

Many colleagues in the room today will have attended the 29th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN29) at CICG in April. This event highlighted the growing strength of global cooperation in mine action, bringing together 815 participants from 86 countries and territories. Over three days, the meeting featured 45 sessions, where 257 panellists shared their valuable insights from their varied experiences, emphasizing the importance of inclusive dialogue and partnership in achieving mine action objectives. It was the largest and most diverse NDM meeting to date and showcases the importance of shared learning and international cooperation.

Excellencies,

To summarise, for concrete results to be replicated and sustained in all contexts, three conditions are essential.

- 1) Funding across all pillars of mine action should be predictable and sustainable to ensure continuity of operations and delivery of impact to affected populations.
- 2) National institutions should have all the capabilities (financial, technical, political) to ensure long-term ownership of mine action programmes.
- 3) Partnerships should be well coordinated, aligning local needs and available resources

The UN is ready to work with partners in all countries to support the implementation of these principles towards meeting the obligations of the Convention.

Thank you.

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