



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 6.

Strengthening Sustainable Capacities for Safer Communities

Delivered by UNDP

Geneva, 17 June 2026

Madame. President¹, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

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

Action 21 of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan highlights a critical reality: completion does not mean zero risk. Even after a State Party has completed its clearance obligations, newly discovered or previously unknown mined areas will continue to emerge. Sustainable national capacity to manage residual contamination is therefore not optional — it is essential for long-term safety. Allow me to highlight six lessons to operationalize Action 21 and to ensure that people remain protected long after completion.

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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First, States Parties need permanent national frameworks capable of responding to new discoveries. This means maintaining a national mine action capacity and ensuring there is a clear legal mandate to address newly identified hazardous areas long after completion.

Second, national systems should include trained, accredited rapid response teams. These teams — whether embedded in civil protection, security forces, or specialized national operators — must be able to deploy quickly to investigate reports, secure hazardous areas, and take immediate risk-reduction measures.

Third, community-based reporting mechanisms are indispensable. Most new discoveries are identified by farmers, herders, scrap-metal collectors, children or returning populations. States Parties should institutionalize community focal points, hotlines, digital reporting tools, and accessible feedback mechanisms so that communities can safely and confidently report suspected contamination.

Fourthly, information management must remain active after completion. Maintaining a national database, updating hazard maps, and integrating mine action data into local government systems ensures that new reports are verified, tracked and acted upon without delay, and provide vital information for future development

Fifth, risk education must continue beyond completion. Communities need to understand that “completion” does not mean “zero risk”. Sustained, targeted risk education — especially for high-risk groups — is essential to prevent accidents when new hazards are discovered.

Sixth, sustainable capacity must include referral pathways and local first-response capability. When new contamination is found, communities must know how to respond, who to contact, and how to access emergency medical care, rehabilitation and support services. This is vital for reducing the human impact of any incident and those response services to be sustained.



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Finally, the United Nations encourages States to start their considerations for entering the Residual Contamination Management phase of their programmes at the earliest opportunity, as experience has proven, hard won victories can be easily lost.

Madame President,

Completion is not the end of risk. Action 21 recognizes that long-term safety depends on the ability of States to manage new discoveries quickly, safely and independently. This requires sustained investment in national institutions, technical capacity, community engagement and information systems, possibly for decades

The United Nations stands ready to support all States Parties in building and maintaining these frameworks and capacities so that the progress achieved under the Convention continues to protect communities for generations to come.

Thank you.

END