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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Intersessional Meetings (APMBC)
(18-20 June 2024)

[Statement under agenda item 4 on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance]

Mr. President¹,

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

Excellencies,

The United Nations works towards a world free from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. Many State Parties work through the United Nations to enhance cooperation and assistance in mine action and we would like to express our deep gratitude to them.

We would like to share three observations based on the progress made by United Nations mine action programmes over the last five years based on reporting from 30 countries.

¹ Dr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), President of the Fifth Review Conference “The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free Worlds”.

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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Between 2018 and 2023, funding for UN Mine Action has been gradually decreasing with a significant dip at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The decrease in funding for certain UN mine action programmes often resulted from changes in donor priorities, budgetary constraints, unreliable funding as well as geopolitical factors and conflicts leading donor countries to shift towards other urgent international issues demanding attention and resources. The Siem Reap Angkor Summit provides an opportunity to put mine action higher on the agenda of governments.

Given the limited amount of resources available to affected states and to the UN, governments should consider prioritizing efforts towards areas where mines and other explosive ordnance threaten lives and livelihoods the most. This highlights the importance of global information management and analysis capacity to inform priority-setting.

It is also key that international assistance focus more on national ownership and building national capacities. Despite continued challenges and unreliable funding, UN efforts to protect civilians from the risk of explosive ordnance continued to deliver positive returns in terms of significantly decreasing the number of traditional mines, explosive remnant of war and improvised explosive device casualties by almost 50% from over 13,500 in 2018 to 6,700 in 2023.

Priority-setting for survey, clearance and land release is key to success. At the institutional level, the UN monitored the effect of an existing formal/explicit priority-setting mechanism for survey/clearance/land release on levels of clearance. In 2023, 93% of the cleared battlefields and minefields were in countries where such a mechanism exists. This result is consistent with the evidence collected since 2018, and the figures continue to show how the support that the UN is providing to establishing formal survey/clearance/land release priority-setting mechanisms at the national level are resulting in better protection against the threats of explosive ordnance.

Lastly, we would like to stress the importance of enhanced cooperation and collaboration, at the technical level, among all entities to ensure successful implementation of work plans in countries with high number of casualties such as Afghanistan and Yemen and in countries where



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Non State Armed Groups use mines to besiege communities or cause forced displacement (e.g. confinement in Colombia and displacement in the Sahel caused by the use of IEDs by Non State Armed Groups). Such investment in coordination of mine action with other sectors of humanitarian assistance (protection, food security, shelter, health, and education) is crucial to alleviate suffering and empower communities to protect themselves. The various plenaries and side events of NDM-UN 27 illustrated the power of coordination and the need for resources to innovate and manage new partnerships.

Thank you.

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