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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties
(1 - 5 December 2025)

Statement under agenda item 9(c) Cooperation and Assistance

[delivered by Ms. Christelle Loupforest, UNMAS on Thursday, 4 December]

Madam President¹,

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

Excellencies,

The UN works in close partnership with States, national and local authorities, NGOs, civil society and communities to reduce the risks and impacts of mines and other explosive ordnance. Across more than 30 countries and territories, we support national mine action authorities enabling them and others to operate safely, efficiently, and to build capacities for sustainable nationally-led mine action.

A recent example is the Central African Republic. With support from the UNMAS team in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA), the country submitted its first transparency report since 2004. This marks a significant step following the emergence of the landmine threat in 2020. Moreover, on 4 September 2025, a Presidential Decree established a National Mine Action Authority with UN support. We commend the

¹ H.E. Ms. ICHIKAWA Tomiko, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, President of the Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP).

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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Central African Republic for its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. The UN is ready to support the operationalization of the new Authority.

In Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, the United Nations also ensures that community needs and local development goals are met through our support to national mine action authorities - in leadership development, financing strategies, technical training and analyses of unexploded ordnance contamination. This collaboration allows better design and management of survey and clearance, information management and risk education.

Excellencies,

Mine action is not an isolated activity. It is an important enabler of humanitarian, development, peace and human rights objectives. This is why UN entities integrate explosive ordnance considerations in the assessments, plans, and budgets of projects and programmes wherever contamination may undermine or inhibit the delivery of a mandated UN Mission, Agency, Fund or Programme activity. This ensures that UN support to host government, transitional authorities, peacekeeping missions and other entities can be delivered in a secure, cost-efficient, coordinated, and effective manner.

In South Sudan, for instance, the UNMAS team in the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) supported IOM, UNHCR and FAO by securing land for transit centers, resettlement areas, farmland and water treatment facilities, directly easing the pressures faced by displaced communities.

Similarly, in the Central African Republic, UNMAS and FAO launched a joint project to assess the impact of explosive ordnance contamination on agriculture, livestock, and food security. The data gathered from affected communities and agro-pastoral actors will then inform evidence-based recommendations for future mine action interventions.



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As many of you are aware, the UN plays a key role in coordinating mine action responses, assisting with accreditation and quality assurance, strengthening capacity of National Authorities and supporting the development of robust processes, standards and oversight of the mine action sector in association with host government and in accordance with national and international standards. We call upon host governments, National Mine Action Authorities and the Ministries that house them to do their utmost to ensure the appropriate legislation and resources are in place to address the urgent needs for mine action. The UN and the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action stand ready to assist.

Excellencies,

Despite these achievements, and the close collaboration across the mine action sector, the UN remains deeply concerned about international funding levels. Reduced, unreliable or unpredictable funding compromises both the quality and quantity of operations, with serious consequences for countries affected by explosive ordnance contamination. Several donors and States Parties have contributed generously to mine action.

However, the amount of funding and where it comes from is only one part of the picture. As many of you in the room know too well, mine action funding often flows to a few high-profile, recent crisis and conflicts. Meanwhile, entire regions, longer-term, lower profile, but equally important contexts such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Mozambique face funding deficits. This issue will be considered at this meeting and needs to be addressed.

The Secretary-General has launched a campaign to accelerate mine action as an enabler for human rights and sustainable development. We call on all States Parties (donors and affected States alike) to provide adequate, sustained, diverse and predictable resources to support all pillars of mine action – and to ensure that this support reaches the many contexts and phases of the mine action and completion process.



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Let me close this statement by expressing our deep gratitude, on behalf of the UN, to all partners for their support to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action, to UN entities directly, and to NGO partners and national authorities with whom we collaborate closely.

The journey that we are all on is one of a shared objective, shared responsibility, and hopefully shared and enhanced cooperation and endeavour.

Thank you.

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