

21<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF  
**MINE ACTION**  
NATIONAL PROGRAMME DIRECTORS  
AND UNITED NATIONS ADVISERS

**TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2018**  
**PLENARY ONE: ADVANCING PROTECTION  
THROUGH PREVENTION**  
11.45AM - 1PM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E

**CHAIR** **Mr. Nhan Tran**, Coordinator, Unintentional Injury Prevention Unit, Department for the Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, World Health Organization.

**SPEAKERS** **Ms. Alexandra Frost**, Research Fellow, Conflict and Health Research Group, King's College London.  
**Mr. Yosufi Mohammad Shafiq**, Director, Directorate of Mine Action Coordination, Afghanistan.  
**Mr. Evan Rai**, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Syria.

### INTRODUCTION

This session will consider mine action through a public health, rather than a contamination, lens. Mine action interventions are *de facto* public health interventions that aim to “improve health and quality of life through prevention and treatment of injuries and other physical and mental health conditions”. The session will examine the effect of landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) on global public health and ‘zoom in’ on the implementation of prevention strategies in two highly affected countries, Afghanistan and Syria, where over 2,370 mine/ERW casualties were reported in 2016 alone.

### PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

This session will explore, at global and national level, the impact of landmines and ERW as a public health issue; and injury prevention as a public health response. The session should primarily act as an eye-opener with the aim to clarify why and how mine action is a science and art of preventing injury, prolonging life, and improving health and quality of life.

For the purposes of this session, ‘prevention’ will be understood as a continuum, as described below:

- 1) *Primary* prevention aims to prevent injury before it ever occurs. Clearance, mine risk education (MRE), advocacy and stockpile management/destruction are four pillars of mine action which form a set of public health interventions that contribute to primary prevention.
- 2) *Secondary* prevention aims to reduce the impact of injury that has already occurred and *tertiary* prevention aims to soften the impact of an injury that has lasting effects. Victim assistance, the fifth pillar, contributes to secondary and tertiary prevention.

### FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (75 MINUTES):

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Alexandra Frost	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Yosufi Mohammad Shafiq	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Evan Rai	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair	05 minutes

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- How can we improve injury surveillance systems to make i) the mine/ERW issue, more visible? and ii) mine action, more effective and more measurable?
- Does mine action contribute to address the psychological effects of landmines and ERW? How? Can we measure it?
- How can we strengthen injury prevention strategies?

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**PLENARY TWO: ENABLING SAFE  
RETURNS**

**3PM - 4.15PM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E**

**CHAIR** **Ms. Patricia Cullen**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations at Geneva.

**SPEAKERS** **Mr. Simon Russell**, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR.  
**Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham**, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Syria Crisis, UN.  
**M. Abdulkadir Abdulle Hooshow**, National Director of Somalia Explosive Management Authority.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Millions of people have been displaced by conflict, violence and disasters. Landmines and explosive remnants of war pose a serious threat to internally displaced persons (IDPs), whether during flight, during displacement, or when trying to return home or settle elsewhere. In 2018, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement will mark their 20th anniversary. They have become the accepted international standard for the protection of IDPs and many States have used them to develop national legislation, policies, and strategies on internal displacement. They are widely regarded as the benchmark for preventing, responding to, and finding solutions for internal displacement. This session will examine how mine action strategies can use the Guiding Principles to better address the needs of IDPs.

### **PURPOSE OF THE SESSION**

Despite 20 years of implementation of the Guiding Principles, many IDPs still face incredible hardship and insufficient protection. Mine action has the potential to address some of these issues. Therefore, this session will explore the following questions:

- 1) How are the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement relevant to mine action?
- 2) How can the mine action sector contribute to the humanitarian response and help protect IDPs in Syria?
- 3) What are the challenges and best practices in protecting IDPs through mine action in the context of Somalia?

### **FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (75 MINUTES):**

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Simon Russell	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Abdulqadir Abdulle Hooshow	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair	05 minutes

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

- Do we have data linking contamination level, casualties and displacement? If yes, how can it be used? If not, how can we improve?
- By the end of 2017, more than half of Syria's 22 million people had fled the violence of the past six years, the majority of whom remain displaced within the country. Mine clearance is critical to their return. How can risk to IDPs be managed and communicated, and who is responsible?
- Do national mine action strategies address the rights of IDPs and propose sustainable solutions?

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**WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2018**  
**PLENARY THREE: THE URBANIZATION OF CONFLICT:  
NEW CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES**  
10AM - 11.15AM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E

**CHAIR** **Ms. Sachi Claringbould**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Permanent Representation of the Netherlands.

**SPEAKERS** **Dr. James Kearney**, Head of Advocacy, Action on Armed Violence.  
**Mr. Michael Talhami**, Regional Water and Habitat Adviser for the Near and Middle East, ICRC.  
**Mr. Essa Al-Fayaadh**, Director General, Directorate of Mine Action (DMA), Iraq.

### INTRODUCTION

The urbanization of conflict has resulted in a dramatic increase in human suffering. As armed conflicts are more and more often being fought in towns and cities, civilians are repeatedly deliberately and/or indiscriminately injured or killed with shocking frequency and intensity. Hospitals, schools, water facilities, places of worship and other civilian infrastructure are contaminated by devices designed to maximize death and erode the psychosocial resilience of local civilian populations. Even after the cessation of armed conflict, the continued threat of explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) has led to protracted displacement and contributed to the loss of livelihoods and diminished peace sustainment and development opportunities. This session comes at an opportune time when mine action actors continue to grapple with the technical, as well as political, challenges of clearance in urban contexts. The objective of the session is to highlight the challenges and examine areas of best practice to ensure mine action delivers maximum results in this difficult operating environment.

### PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

This session will assess the extent and impact of urban conflict and the challenges posed for humanitarian mine action. The goal is to identify best practices through a series of questions:

1) When cities are at war, how have life-saving services adapted to the growing threat of explosive hazards? How can humanitarian and development actors better respond to these crises given the growing sophistication of urban infrastructure and services?

2) What are the technical complexities of clearing explosive hazards in urban contexts? What are the challenges and opportunities? What has been found to work well?

3) Are landmine centric approaches equipped to counter the use of IEDs? What tools and frameworks are currently available to address the growing use of IEDs in urban contexts?

### FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (75 MINUTES):

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. James Kearney	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Michael Talhami	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Essa Al-Fayaadh	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair	05 minutes

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- According to data collected by Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), 90% of all civilian casualties from IEDs occurred in populated areas.
- In Mosul, it is estimated that 11 million tons of rubble are contaminated with explosive hazards in the newly liberated areas from Da'esh.
- Given the overwhelming proportion of civilians that are affected, how can the machinery of International Humanitarian Law be better leveraged, or defined, to address the use of explosive hazards in urbanized contexts?

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**PLENARY FOUR: NO WOMEN,  
NO PEACE**

**11.45AM - 1PM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E**

**CHAIR** **Ambassador Rosemary McCarney**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva.

**SPEAKERS** **Ms. Maria Butler**, Director of Global Programmes for Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.  
**Ms. Arianna Calza Bini**, Director, Gender and Mine Action Programme.  
**Mr. Sergio Bueno Aguirre**, Director, Dirección Descontamina Colombia.

### **INTRODUCTION**

No women, no peace... this powerful, yet simplistic phrase epitomizes the correlation between the participation and influence of women in peace processes and the potential for the successful resolution of conflict and creation of sustainable peace. Proven measurably to strengthen and sustain peace processes, the women, peace and security agenda has gained significant normative strength over the past 17 years through UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The mine action sector has responded, including through the development of gender guidelines specially for mine action. The frameworks and tools are in place, yet patriarchal systems and the related hegemonic masculinity paradigms pose significant challenges to the actual implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, particularly in fragile and conflict affected contexts. This session will examine the progress made in full participation and inclusion of women, in all their diversity in humanitarian mine action, highlighting the gaps and challenges faced.

### **PURPOSE OF THE SESSION**

This session aims to examine a series of questions to assess the universalization of gender-sensitive approaches in mine action:

- 1) Why is it important to include women in peace processes?
- 2) How can we ensure and measure the effective implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in mine action?
- 3) How have gender-sensitive approaches been applied to national mine action strategies?
- 4) What are some of the challenges to ensure that women, girls, boys and men have equal access to and participate in mine action programmes as beneficiaries, employees and decision-makers?
- 5) What are the best practices and success stories?

### **FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (75 MINUTES):**

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Maria Butler	15 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Arianna Calza Bini	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Sergio Bueno Aguirre	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair	05 minutes

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

- Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) highlighted persistent funding gaps for gender-based programming across the UN's three pillars of Human Rights, Peace and Security and Development, despite clear evidence that women's empowerment is a prerequisite for preventing and resolving conflict and sustaining peace.
- At the global level, how can international stakeholders best mobilize financial investments to implement and sustain locally driven solutions for gender and mine action?
- How can we ensure gender equality and women's empowerment in mine action programming?
- In Colombia, is the mine action strategy addressing gender equality and ensuring women's meaningful leadership and participation?

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**PLENARY FIVE: PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR SUCCESS**

**3.15PM TO 4.30PM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E**

**CHAIR** **H. E. Mitsuko Shino**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva and Chief of the Consulate of Japan in Geneva.

**SPEAKERS** **Mr. Rudolf Müller**, Interim Functional Lead, Coordination Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva.

**Ms. Maria Vardis**, Project Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the UN Strategy on Mine Action.

**Ms. Einas Mohammed**, Head of Defence and Security and Division a.i., African Union.

**Mr. Frank Meeussen**, EU Mine Action Focal Point, European External Action Service.

### **INTRODUCTION**

This session places special onus on partnerships as the main driver for achieving the 2025 vision of a world free from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war. Originally set out in 2014 by States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in the Maputo Declaration, the 2025 vision has since embodied the spirit of cooperation and partnership in mine action. Indeed, this vision has become indicative of the collective worldwide support that crosses regions and sectors. The 2025 vision remains deeply vested in the capacity of strategic partnerships to deliver meaningful changes on the ground. Accordingly, this session assesses progress made towards achieving the 2025 vision through these partnerships.

### **PURPOSE OF THE SESSION**

This session provides a forum for strengthening partnerships in mine action through the exchange of challenges faced, lessons learned, and application of best practices. The objective is to examine practical measures for establishing and reinvigorating partnerships in mine action at the local, national and regional levels to achieve the 2025 vision, through addressing questions such as:

- 1) What are the comparative advantages of UN joint approaches as demonstrated through the UN Mine Action Strategy 2013-2018 and the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)?
- 2) How has mine action work been integrated into the broader humanitarian protection architecture?
- 3) How has the African Union (AU) mine action framework (2014-2017) strengthened closer collaboration between regional and sub-regional organizations?

### **FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (75 MINUTES):**

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Rudolf Müller	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Maria Vardis	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Einas Mohammed	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Frank Meeussen	10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair	10 minutes

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

- Whether initiated from above or below, how can partnerships be scaled to deliver meaningful change on the ground? What are some examples of effective donor/implementer partnerships in mine action?
- What are the best practices in the field and how have partnerships reduced the threat and impact of mines and explosive remnants of war?
- Are partnerships effectively addressing the restoration of victims' dignity? How has the Global Protection Cluster strengthened the protection of mines and explosive remnants of war victims?
- What mechanisms are currently in place to monitor and promote the universal adherence to international instruments relating to mine action and the broader achievement of the 2025 vision?

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**FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2018**  
**PLENARY SIX: DEVELOPING NATIONAL  
CAPACITY FOR THE 2030 AGENDA**  
10AM TO 11AM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E

**CO-CHAIRS** **Ms. Maria Luisa Silva**, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva.  
**Mr. Mohammad Breikat**, Director, NCDR, Jordan.

**SPEAKERS** **Mr. Saša Obradović**, Director a.i. BHMACH, Bosnia and Herzegovina.  
**Mr. Gazanfar Ahmadov**, Director, ANAMA, Azerbaijan.  
**Ambassador Stefano Toscano**, Director, GICHD.

### INTRODUCTION

The universal adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its corresponding 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a strategic opportunity to mainstream mine action into broader national/SDG development processes. Important for the work of the mine action community, States have put 'leaving no one behind' at the heart of the Agenda, so that all people in all countries benefit from sustainable development. In mine affected countries the role of the mine action centres will be an important enabler for achieving this important vision. As the formulation of integrated national SDG frameworks are now underway, the challenge will be ensuring that core institutional and technical capacities are housed within the national mine action centres.

### PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

Drawing from efforts being made in Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Sudan, and Azerbaijan, this session will explore the challenges of developing core institutional capacities to strengthen mine action's engagement with government and development partners in achieving the SDGs.

### FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (60 MINUTES):

Video: <i>State of Sustainable Development</i>	02 minutes
Introductory remarks by Co-Chair, Maria Luisa Silva, UNDP	05 minutes
Presentation by Saša Obradović, BiH	10 minutes
Presentation by Gazanfar Ahmadov, Azerbaijan	10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	25 minutes
Closing remarks by Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD	05 minutes

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- How is mine action linked to broader development structures (i.e. Ministries, Civil Society, Donors, etc) in your country?
- How is mine action priority setting, planning, and reporting conducted in your country?
- What, if any, plans are being made to link mine action to national development/SDG plans?
- What, if any, capacity development gaps have been identified related to linking mine action to the SDGs?

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**PLENARY SEVEN: INNOVATION IN  
MINE ACTION**

**11.15AM TO 12.30PM  
ROOM XIX, BUILDING E**

**CO-CHAIRS** **Brigadier General Ziad Nasr**, Director, Lebanon Mine Action Center.  
**Ms. Karen Galokale**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Police, National Security and  
Correctional Services, Solomon Islands.

**SPEAKERS** **Mr. Olivier Cottray**, Head of Information Management, GICHD.  
**Jean-Gyl Capt**, Member of the Foundation Board, Urs Endress Foundation.  
**Mr. Einar Bjorgo**, Programme Manager, UNOSAT.  
**Mr. Paul Heslop**, Chief of Programme Planning and Management, UNMAS.  
**Mr. Joel Myhre**, PhD Research Fellow, Centre for Integrated Emergency Management,  
University of Agder.  
**Mr. Greg Crowther**, Regional Director, South and South East Asia, Mines Advisory Group (MAG).  
**Ms. Kristina Duric**, Project Officer, Risk Management, GICHD.  
**Mr. Hugues Laurence**, Child Protection Advisor, Child Protection in Emergencies, UNICEF  
**Mr. Ken Rutherford**, Director, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery and Professor of  
Political Science, James Madison University

**INTRODUCTION**

Methods, tools and approaches have evolved to improve performances of mine action programmes. This session will explore these three dimensions through short interventions from a wide variety of contributors. This will include presenting the latest in information management systems, as well highlighting exciting innovations that could inform the future of mine action.

**PURPOSE OF THE SESSION**

This session will provide a rich selection of updates and developments on methods, tools and approaches to mine action. It will span a wide variety of topics to promote the sharing of information and advances from innovation across countries and programmes.

**FORMAT FOR THE PLENARY (60 MINUTES):**

Introductory remarks by Co-Chair, Brigadier General Ziad Nasr	05 minutes
Presentations:	
IMSMA Core - Mr. Olivier Cottray	10 minutes
Unmanned Aerial Systems & Sensors - Mr. Jean-Gyl Capt	05 minutes
Drone 3D Modelling in Urban Environments - Mr. Einar Bjorgo	05 minutes
UNMAS Innovations - Mr. Paul Heslop	05 minutes
Artificial Intelligence and Big Data - Mr. Joel Myhre	05 minutes
Advanced Detection Systems for Submunition Clearance - Mr. Greg Crowther	05 minutes
Collaborative Ordnance Data Repository - Ms. Kristina Duric	05 minutes
Results Based Management for MRE and Integrated Mine Action - Mr. Hugues Laurence	05 minutes
Launch of Global Conventional Weapons Destruction Repository - Mr. Ken Rutherford	05 minutes
Closing remarks by Co-Chair, Ms. Karen Galokale	05 minutes

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

- How can mine action make better use of information provided by other humanitarian sectors in its planning and prioritization?
- How can mine action leverage rapid 3D modelling in urban environments?
- What might be the impact of artificial intelligence on mine action (Automatic image recognition for item identification? Hazardous area predictive modelling? Clearance prioritization and impact optimization?)