

- On behalf of Mr. Magdy Soliman Martinez, Assistant Administrator and Director for the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support at UNDP, great appreciation for the invitation and opportunity to update the Mine Action Support Group on the realignment of UNDP mine action. Deputy Director Mr. Nkwain's regrets of not being here to represent Mr. Martinez.

Mme Ambassador Kaji, colleagues,

- Some of you will also be aware of the cycles of, and that we operate under the **UNDPs Strategic Plan** and that these are, once elaborated through consultations with host countries and member states – **approved by our Executive Board**.
- This was done with our current UNDP Strategy 2014-2017 with an aim to focus UNDPs activities and work under **7 explicit outcome areas**:
 1. Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that **create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded**;
 2. Citizen expectations for voice, **development, the rule of law** and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance;
 3. Countries have **strengthened institutions** to progressively deliver universal access to basic services;
 4. Faster progress is achieved in reducing **gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment**;
 5. Countries are able to **reduce the likelihood of conflict**, and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change;
 6. **Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways** are achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster settings;
 7. **Development debates and actions at all levels prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion**, consistent with our engagement principles.
- Further to these, in a **significant organizational review**, we have become both leaner and more decentralized organizing our activities under priority areas that stood out as the main preferences—among many, many preferences in a diversified world, among stakeholders and it was decided, within the limitations set by the organizational review, that further support to mine action would be focused at country level with a significant down-scaling of our so called “global offer” in terms of the functions performed at more central levels of the organisation.
- **After the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan however, and in the light of pressing demand from existing national counterparts and explicit support from development partners, as well as new programmes starting up requesting our support**, we have now decided to reconsider this decision. As we speak discussions are ongoing at HQ in New York to reintroduce a “global offer” and HQ capacity to support COs with technical assistance and programmatic support in the further

development of national mine action programme(s) with clear development objectives and clearly connected to the outcomes of the Strategic Plan.

- The approach being considered will mirror our **previous approach of focusing our main activities at country level whilst continuing with a more targeted and strategic policy engagement at global level to better profile the value added of UNDPs mandate in this sector.**
- UNDP will **not reshape its mine action agenda into business as usual. We do not see ourselves as the main actor in this sector, or as capable of operating as a standalone actor.** We will continue to emphasize working in support of national programmes and in partnership with other national and international actors, agencies and organisations.
- While re-engaging, we will take the time necessary to fully define **the scope of our interventions and determine the location of future capacity. This will involve consultations, first and foremost, with our national counterparts, and a close examination of the programmes we will be called upon to support.**
- We also **want to consult and discuss the appropriate and most effective and efficient partnerships with likeminded partners who are interested in working with us to support affected states, by strengthening their institutions and programmes to best address the challenges posed by Explosive Remnants of War.**
- Subsequent to agreement and clearance by UNDP senior Leadership, the positions to be created **will have a stronger link between Mine Action and Development to reflect a clearer development thrust that is fully aligned with the following outcome areas of our Strategic Plan:**
 - **paving the way for livelihoods, (outcome 1);**
 - **capacity development and strengthening national institutions (outcome 3 and 6),**
 - **prioritizing demining in support of gender equality (outcome 4);**
 - **early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways (outcome 6),**
 - **reducing the likelihood of renewed conflict (outcome 5) and finally,**
 - **promoting development solutions that prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion, (outcome 7).**
- We will work on the rationale for location of new expertise based on demand, and on the volume, number and complexity of programmes to be supported, and on the possibility to provide support services to more than one region. The overall objective will be to have a support structure that can effectively add the kind of value to mine action that UNDP can deliver through its development mandate.
- To this end, and in line with engagements under outcome 7 of our Strategic Plan, another strong policy area will have to do with leveraging the national mine action capacity and vast experience gained by countries over the last two decades to support other affected countries through **triangular and south-south cooperation schemes.**

- We therefore **welcome this opportunity to re-engage with mine action colleagues and partners in our collective efforts** to support affected states in addressing the challenges posed by ERW in the aftermath of conflict and to help achieve sustainable recovery and resilience, and avoid relapse into conflict.

Many thanks for your attention.