

23RD INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF
MINE ACTION
NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND
UNITED NATIONS ADVISERS



The NDM-UN is the annual meeting during which mine action stakeholders from national governments and the UN community meet to discuss emerging issues and exchange best practices and lessons learned. Main themes this year include: linkages between mine action and the environment; sustainable mainstreaming of diversity in mine action; the use of technology and digital engagement in risk education campaigns; regional approaches to mine action; opportunities of mainstreaming mine action into development; partnerships in humanitarian emergencies; and multi-stakeholder and non-traditional partnerships for collective solutions to the threat of improvised explosive devices. The rich side event agenda will offer opportunities to focus on national case studies and best practices, and to go deeper into thematic mine action discussions, as well as to explore innovative approaches and solutions to the most pressing challenges facing the mine action sector today.



11-14 FEBRUARY, 2020

Palais des Nations, Geneva

AGENDA

Tuesday 11 February

Plenary Room XVIII

10:00 - 11:15

Opening Ceremony

- Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS (Chair)
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General, Chair of IACG-MA, United Nations (Video message)
- Ms. Grainne O'Hara, Director of the Division of International Protection, UNHCR (Keynote)
- Ms. Aya Abdullah, former refugee and UNHCR Global Youth Ambassador

Welcome and opening remarks to set the context for the meeting. A minute of silence will be observed.

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:00

Plenary Session 1 - Mine Action and the Environment

Chair: Brigadier General Jihad Al Bechelany, Director, Lebanon Mine Action Center, Lebanon

Panelists:

- Mr. Iain Overton, Executive Director, Action on Armed Violence
- Mr. Richard Boulter, Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS South Sudan
- Dr. Sarah Njeri, Academic Researcher, African Leadership Centre, King's College London

Panelists will explore the linkages between mine action and the environment by looking at the environmental challenges mine action deals with, as well as the impact of mine action on the environment.

13:00 - 15:00

Lunch & Side Events

Please refer to the side event schedule on page 5.

15:00 - 16:15

Plenary Session 2 - Mine Action for People: Dimensions of Diversity

Chair: Ambassador Osman Abu Fatima, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Panelists:

- Mr. Dahir Abdurrahman Abdulle, Director General, Somalia Explosive Management Authority, Somalia
- Mr. Habibulhaq Javed, Head of Office, UNMAS Syria
- Ms. Fadwa Benbarek, Head of Programme, UNMAS Iraq
- Ms. Natalia Morales Campillo, Gender Coordinator, Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Colombia

This session will explore how the mine action sector works to ensure that diversity considerations are better mainstreamed into mine action programming to enhance the effectiveness of the different pillars of mine action, so that all groups have access to the support and assistance they need.

16:15 - 18:00

Opening Reception at Serpent Bar

Location: 1st Floor, Building E (next to Plenary Room XVIII)

UNMAS will host a reception where canapés and refreshments will be served.

AGENDA

Wednesday 12 February

10:00 - 18:00

Side events, workshops and regional breakout groups allowing participants to explore specific issues of interest in more depth.

Please refer to the schedule on pages 5-10.

Thursday 13 February

Plenary Room XVIII

10:00 - 11:15

Plenary Session 3 - Regional Approaches to Mine Action

Chair: Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD

Panelists:

- Mr. Khalid Rashad Jabbar, Director General, Directorate for Mine Action, Iraq; Breakout Group for Middle East and North Africa countries
- Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre; Breakout Group for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries
- Mr. Djibrine Brahim, Haut Commissariat National au Déminage, Chad; Breakout Group for Africa countries
- Ms. Martha Hurtado, High Commissioner for Peace, Colombia; Breakout Group for Latin America countries
- Ms. Dwi Prameswari, Senior Technical Officer, ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center; Breakout Group for South East Asia and Pacific countries

Regional approaches to mine action have been fostered for many years and been valued by national mine action authorities as a way to learn and benefit from the experiences of countries sharing a region or similar language. This plenary relies on the outcomes of the Regional Breakout Groups Session and will explore South-South cooperation and identify regional interactions.

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:00

Plenary Session 4 - Thinking Safety and Acting Safely in the Digital Age

Chair: Ms. Meritxell Relaño, Director, Office of Emergency Operations, Geneva, UNICEF

Panelists:

- Mr. Khalid Rashad Jabbar, Director General, Directorate for Mine Action, Iraq
- Mr. Reuben McCarthy, Regional Manager on Weapon Contamination for the Near and Middle East, ICRC
- Mr. Abel Tesfai, Mine Action Officer, United Nations Office to the African Union
- Ms. Sylvie Bouko, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Consultant, GICHD
- Mr. Danee Luhar, Child Protection Specialist, Myanmar, UNICEF
- Mr. Solomon H. Black, Programme Manager, U.S. Department of State
- Ms. Annemarie Swai, Regional Emergency Advisor, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, UNICEF
- Mr. Ivan Martinić, Inventor, Minefields.info App

This session will take stock of the initiatives that use technology and digital engagement to improve coverage, quality, integration, equity and the cost-effectiveness of explosive ordnance risk education campaigns.

13:00 - 15:00

Lunch & Side Events

Please refer to the side event schedule on page 11.

AGENDA

Thursday 13 February (cont.)

Plenary Room XVIII

15:00 - 16:15

Plenary Session 5 - SDGs from Theory to Practice: Linking Mine Action to SDGs

Chair: Ms. Maria-Luisa Silva, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva

Panelists:

- Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
- Ambassador Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, Secretary-General and Project Director, CFRIII, Cambodia
- Ms. Ariane Elmas, Mine Action Advisor, Lebanon Mine Action Center

The panelists will present case studies from countries where national SDG 18 on mine action was introduced, and on the challenges and opportunities of mainstreaming mine action into development.

Friday 14 February

Plenary Room XVIII

10:00 - 11:15

Plenary Session 6 - Partnerships to Save Lives in Humanitarian Emergencies

Chair: Ambassador Nasir Andisha, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Panelists:

- Ms. Christelle Loupforest, Programme Officer, UNMAS Geneva
- Ms. Maria Agnese Giordano, Coordinator, Global Education Cluster, UNICEF
- Mr. Olivier Cottray, Head, Information Management Division, GICHD

This session will explore how the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and commercial operators can respond rapidly to aid the safe movement of civilians, the provision of other forms of humanitarian assistance and the realization of durable solutions to displacement.

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30

Plenary Session 7 - Improvised Explosive Devices: Connecting Actors for Solutions

Chair: Ambassador Dieudonné W. Désiré Sougouri, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Panelists:

- Ms. Diana Castillo, Diplomat, Permanent Mission of Colombia to UNOG and Co-coordinator of the IED Group of Experts of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Colombia
- Mr. Alexander Ralf Riebl, IED Threat Mitigation Advisor, UNMAS
- Ms. Nora Achkar, Humanitarian Project Manager, UNMAS Mali
- Mr. Himayu Shiotani, Programme Head, Conventional Arms Programme, UNIDIR

This session will discuss how collaboration and sharing of information among various actors of the IED sector including humanitarian, private sector, industry, military and academic representatives can enhance humanitarian responses in order to protect civilians, ensure that mine actors are equipped and trained to safely mitigate the IED threats, and promote the development of technological solutions.

12:30 - 13:00

Closing remarks by Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS and Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

SIDE EVENTS

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 13:15 - 14:45

- **Safe Ground: Turning Minefields into Playing Fields**

Room XXV

The Secretary-General launched the Safe Ground campaign on 4 April 2019, a five-year campaign developed to bring attention and assistance to the survivors of explosive ordnance through the promotion of sport. Safe Ground is a global advocacy and fundraising campaign led and coordinated by the United Nations and supported by an informal, voluntary Group of Champions, which are comprised of governments, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, sport federations, and private sector companies. The panelists will discuss the purpose of the campaign, how others can be involved, and what has been achieved in the first months since the launch.

Speakers:

Mr. Lee Woodyear, Global Communications Officer, UNMAS (Chair)
Mr. Paul Heslop, Chief, Programmes, Planning and Operations Unit, UNMAS
Ms. Oksana Leshchenko, Policy Specialist, UNDP
Mr. Nils Christensen, Chief Technical Advisor, Mine Action, Vietnam, UNDP
Ms. Bridget Forster, Programme Manager, State of Palestine, UNMAS
Ms. Aurelie Fabry, Programme Officer, Democratic Republic of Congo, UNMAS

- **Mine Action Information Management of the Future**

Room XXVII

This event will provide a view into the future of Information Management for Humanitarian Mine Action, looking at the tools, approaches and expanded areas of influence and impact of disruptive IM systems. The current IM environment will require an overhaul of tools, minds and objectives to reap the benefits of the future data points. This discussion will focus on future business drivers and required thinking patterns.

Speakers:

Mr. Isam Ghareeb, Iraq Country Representative, iMMAP
Mr. Arie Claassens, Information Management Technical Advisor, iMMAP
Mr. Andrew Kesterton, Information Management Technical Development Coordinator, GICHD
Ms. Esraa Ghassan, Senior IM Officer, iMMAP Iraq

SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 09:00 - 09:45

- **Implementation of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy: An Update**
Room XXV

This event will provide an update to partners and other interested parties on the status of the implementation of the United Nations Mine Action Strategy and some key findings to date.

Speakers:

- Ms. Abigail Hartley, Chief of Policy, Public Information and Advocacy, UNMAS (Chair)
- Mr. Dejan Loncar, M&E Analyst, UN IACG-MA
- Mr. Nils Christensen, Senior Technical Advisor, Mine Action, UNDP Vietnam
- Mr. Danee Luhar, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 10:00 - 11:15

- **Regional Breakout Groups Session**

This session will identify common challenges and share potential solutions to current issues in the respective countries, at a regional level. The groups will discuss benefits of South-South cooperation and how each national mine action programme could benefit from learning from others. The Regional Breakout Groups will report back in Plenary III: Regional Approaches to Mine Action, on the outcomes of the discussions.

- **Room XXI** English-speaking Group for South East Asia and Pacific countries
Chair: Ms. Dwi Prameswari, Senior Technical Officer, ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center
- **Room XXIV** French-speaking Breakout Group for Africa countries
Chair: Mr. Djibrine Brahim, Coordinator, Haut Commissariat National au Déminage, Chad
- **Room XXV** Russian-speaking Breakout Group for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries
Chair: Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre
- **Room XXVII** Spanish-speaking Breakout Group for Latin America countries
Chair: Ms. Martha Hurtado, Deputy Commissioner of the Mine Action Programme, High Commissioner for Peace, Colombia
- **Room XXVIII** Arabic-speaking Breakout Group for Middle East and North Africa countries
Chair: Mr. Khalid Rashad Jabbar, Director General, Directorate for Mine Action, Iraq

SIDE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 11:45 - 13:00

- **Libya: The Toxic and Explosive Legacy of Modern Conflict**

Room XXIV

Since 2011, the Libyan population has expressed concerns regarding the hazards posed by large bulk stocks of liquid missile fuels. These are a legacy of the older, Soviet-era Air Defence capabilities in Libya. The sites lack security, and necessary maintenance, and there is a need for a strategy by which to effectively, safely and permanently destroy these stocks, in an environmentally acceptable way. The disposal of liquid-fuelled strategic missile systems poses a number of technical and environmental challenges. UNMAS has engaged with Libyan Authorities and member states to develop a plan for decommissioning the complete missile systems.

Speakers:

Mr. Lance Malin, Chief, UNMAS Libya (Chair)

Ms. Julie Myers, Senior Programme Officer, UNMAS Libya

Mr. Bob Seddon, Threat Mitigation Manager, UNMAS Libya

- **Launch of the SMART IED Threat Mitigation Technology Roadmap (SMITMiTR)**

Room XXV

SMITMiTR is a dynamic platform that compiles and shares the latest generic information on IED threats and on the technology available to mitigate those threats. SMITMiTR is an innovative interactive platform that will categorize IED threats, identify technologies that can help to create standards in pursuit of smart solutions to mitigate threats. The real strength of SMITMiTR lies in shared knowledge, cross-referenced data and coordinated actions among the partners involved. SMITMiTR is a smart solution to dangerous problems.

During this launch of the platform, procedures to participate - including accessing, adding and sharing information – will be explained and user accounts can be created.

Speakers:

IED Threat Mitigation Advisory Team, UNMAS

SIDE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 13:15 - 14:45

- **Iranian Humanitarian Mine Action Activities**

Room XXIV

The Mine Action Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRMAC) will present the Iranian Humanitarian Mine Action Activities including: humanitarian clearance, detecting, neutralization and destruction of ERWs, mine victims and mine risk education/risk awareness.

Speakers:

Mr. Meisam Rahmani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Chair)

Mr. Mehdi Pournabgher, IRMAC

Mr. Mehrdad Pahlevani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Farhad Arabpoor, Weapon contamination coordinator, ICRC Iran

- **Risk education in the Oslo Action Plan: From Vision to Reality**

Room XXV

Over the last year, there has been significant momentum around the risk education pillar of mine action, with growing recognition that risk education efforts must be stepped up to protect civilians from the threats of explosive ordnance. Through an interactive group discussion format, this side event will look at how we can strengthen protection through explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and translate the commitments made in Oslo into action. Topics will include IED risk education, digital EORE technologies, EORE training needs, EORE impact assessment and integration of EORE with broader protection, development and education efforts.

Moderation: Mr. Sebastian Kasack, MAG; Ms. Kaitlin Hodge, GICHD

Individual Group Facilitators: National Directors

- **Environmental Impact and Climate Change Adaptation in Mine Action**

Room XXVII

Managing the environmental aspects of mine action operations is critical to ensure that operations do no harm and that they provide socio-economic development opportunities for local communities after clearance. While landmines and other types of explosives can negatively impact the environment, clearance can also have negative consequences on local environmental security through physical damage to agricultural areas and natural resources as well as through the environmental footprint of clearance operations. This session will identify the opportunities, challenges, and specific tools for improved integration and mainstreaming of environment and climate change into mine action operations.

Speakers:

Ms. Kendra Dupuy, Senior Advisor Environment, NPA (Co-chair)

Ms. Linsey Cottrell, Environment Policy Officer, Conflict and Environment Observatory (Co-chair)

Mr. David Hewitson, Operations Director, Fenix Insight

Mr. Olaf Juergensen, Development and Mine Action Specialist, UNDP

Mr. Roland Evans, Advisor, Land Release, Operational Efficiency and Training Development, GICHD

Mr. James Cowan, Chief Executive, The HALO Trust

Ambassador Prum Sophakmonkol, Cambodian Mine Action Authority, Secretary-General and Project Director, CFRIII, Cambodia

SIDE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 15:00 - 16:15

- **South Sudan - Achieving Article Five compliance, and Delivering a Long Term Solution**

Room XXIV

South Sudan will present on the current status of contamination and the progress that has been made since independence in 2011, as well as the plans to complete clearance by 2026. The briefing will present the clearance plan that is outlined in its five-year APMBBC extension request. Additionally, the presentation will touch on the national strategy and the projected transition to national ownership of the programme.

Speakers:

Mr. Henry Okwera, Director General of the South Sudan National Mine Action Authority, South Sudan
Mr. Richard Boulter, Senior Programme Manager, UNMAS South Sudan
Mr. Llewelyn Jones, Director of Programmes, Mines Advisory Group
Ms. Åsa Massleberg, Advisor, Strategic Management, GICHD

- **Meeting the Challenge Together: Advancing Gender & Diversity in Project Implementation**

Room XXV

This session will focus on UNOPS' efforts towards advancing gender and diversity through its implementation support to UNMAS field programmes. Specifically, the session will address the challenges and lessons learned UNOPS has faced through its gender and diversity parity and mainstreaming endeavors in human resources and procurement. Experience and reflections from implementing partners and thought leaders will also be conveyed in an effort to provide a holistic overview which all participants can draw upon to benefit their work in the mine action sector.

Speakers:

Ms. Talitha Dowds, Special Assistant to the Director of UNOPS Peace & Security Cluster (Moderator)
Mr. Amir Omeragic, Director, Peace & Security Cluster, UNOPS
Ms. Jody Maine, Deputy-Director, Peace & Security Cluster, UNOPS
Ms. Arianna Calza Bini, GMAP Director, GICHD
Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain Sadozai, Programme Manager, UNMAS Somalia
Ms. Alice Laughher, CEO, CTG
Mr. Darren Cormack, Strategy, Government Relations & Partnerships Director, MAG

- **United for Survivors: Solutions, Commitments, Action**

Room XXVII

The figures related to civilian victims of explosive violence have risen dramatically over the past years. This side event will explore challenges faced by governments and other actors in coping with the rising number of victims and will discuss what policy changes are required to better protect and support victims of explosive violence.

Speakers:

Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS (Chair)
Mr. Tancredi Francese, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Martha Hurtado, Deputy High Commissioner for Peace, Colombia
Mr. Nigel Ellway, Executive Director, Revive Campaign
Mr. William A. Bagley, Associate Research Engineer, Johns Hopkins University

SIDE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 16:30 - 18:00

- **Iraq - Local Solutions for National Challenges: Operational Models and Support to National Capacities**

Room XXIV

International organizations such as UNMAS and HALO Trust are closely collaborating with the Government of Iraq, Directorate of Mine Action, to implement innovative solutions to the threats of explosive hazards while ensuring sustainability and nationalization of those efforts. This side event will be jointly hosted by DMA, HALO Trust and UNMAS Iraq programme.

Speakers:

Ambassador Mr. Hussain Mahmood Alkhateeb, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Fadwa Benbarek, Head of Programme Section, UNMAS Iraq
Mr. Nick Torbet, Deputy Head of Region, Middle East, North Africa and Afghanistan, HALO Trust
Mr. Khalid Jabbar, Director General of the Iraq Directorate of Mine Action

- **A Mine-Free World by 2025: The Need for Innovation**

Room XXV

The marriage between innovative solutions and land release is not that simple. However, it can also be an extremely valuable ally in the commitment to a mine-free world by 2025. This event will share lessons learned from the field, including on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (a.k.a. drones), and in doing so, underlines the importance of allocating funds for innovation to ensure that people's needs for safety and access to land are met with the shortest possible delay.

Speakers:

Mr. Sigurd Schelstraete, Director of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium (Chair)
General Brahim Djibrine Brahim, Coordinator, National High Commission for Demining, Chad
Ms. Wendi Pedersen, GIS Solutions Advisor, GICHD
Mr. John Fardoulis, UAV Expert and Project Partner, Mobility Robotics
Mr. Xavier Depreytere, Innovation Project Manager, Humanity & Inclusion

- **Accident and Incident Reporting Requirements: A Burden or an Essential Learning Tool**

Room XXVII

GICHD and JMU have started looking into better, more efficient and more effective ways of collecting, analyzing, storing and disseminating data on accidents and incidents in Mine Action, worldwide. This side event will enable a wider panel discussion, involving operators, academia, national authorities and other relevant partners, which will be beneficial to the sector, raising awareness about the importance of timely and accurate reporting of work related accidents and incidents.

Speakers:

Dr. Suzanne Fiederline, JMU (Chair)
Mr. David Hewitson, Fenix Insight
Ms. Heather Holsinger, JMU
Mr. Stanislav Damjanovic, GICHD
Dr. Jonathan Williams, HALO Trust
Mr. Siraj Bazarni, IKMAA

SIDE EVENTS

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 13:15 - 14:45

- **Sudan – Mine Action and Peace: Sudan’s Experience and Future**

Room XXIV

The importance of clearing humanitarian corridors from explosive hazard contamination is paramount and requires strong cooperation among the Government of Sudan, opposition groups, the United Nations and the donor community. This panel of relevant experts will bring perspectives from different sides and share past examples of successful cases.

Speakers:

Ambassador Osman Abu Fatima, Chargé d’affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva (Co-chair)

Mr. Paul Heslop, Chief of Programmes, UNMAS (Co-chair)

H.E. Dr. Al Sadiq Abdul Aziz Abdallah, Under-Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sudan

Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Sudan

Brig. Amir Abdelsadiq Abuzaid, NMAC Director

Mr. Sediq Rashid, Programme Manager, UNMAS Sudan

Ms. Hana R. Cervenka, First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of Norway to UNOG

- **Survey, Clearance and Risk Education of Improvised Mines - Challenges, Solutions and Best Practices**

Room XXV

The increasing use of improvised mines in Afghanistan poses a serious threat to the safety and security of civilians in the country. An international response to improvised mines requires the attention and commitment of a variety of stakeholders—from governments, donor communities, operational and other specialized agencies, research organizations and advocacy groups.

Speakers:

Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, Director, Mine Action Coordination of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, Afghanistan (Chair)

Mr. Khalid Rashad Jabbar, Directorate of Mine Action, Iraq

Ms. Claire Lovelace, The HALO Trust

Ms. Sachi Claringbould, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

Ms. Caitlin Longden, Senior Programme Officer, UNMAS Afghanistan

- **Implementing the Oslo Review Conference Decisions: A Landmine Free 2025 Perspective**

Room XXVII

This side event will allow for reflection on the Oslo Action Plan’s (OAP) commitments and support required to achieve the plan over the next five years. The discussion will hear from an Angolan perspective, with a focus on how the OAP should help Angola achieve its aspirations to complete clearance by 2025. Norway will offer their perspectives on the OAP and its implementation over the next five years. The Landmine Free 2025 campaign will revisit its innovation manifesto and consider what is needed to translate the commitments made in Oslo into practice, especially for political, technical and financial policy.

Speakers:

Ms. Hana R. Cervenka, First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of Norway to UNOG (Chair)

Dr. Adriano Gonçalves, National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance, Angola

Mr. Chris Loughran, Landmine Free 2025 Campaign Steering Group

Ms. Camille Wallen, Landmine Free 2025 Campaign Steering Group