

# MINE ACTION CANNOT WAIT

The 26th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN26), co-hosted and co-organized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

**22 - 23 June 2023**

**World Meteorological  
Organization**

*Geneva, Switzerland*



**With appreciation to the Swiss Confederation for its sponsorship of the NDM-UN26.**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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**GICHD**



## Thursday 22 June

**09:15 - 09:45**

**Coffee**

**Location: outside Salle A**

**10:00 - 10:45**

**Opening Ceremony**

**Location: Salle A**

### **Master of Ceremonies**

- Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director, UNMAS

A minute of silence will be observed.

### **Welcome Remarks**

- Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
- Ambassador Thomas Gürber, Deputy State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, USG, Department of Peace Operations and Chair, Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, United Nations (video message) introduced by Mr. Alexandre Zouev, ASG for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations, United Nations

### **Opening of the Meeting by Co-Organizers**

- Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
- Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director, UNMAS

### **Keynote Speech**

- Mr. Robert Piper, Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement

**10:45 - 12:00**

**Plenary Session 1 - Mine Action Enabling Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons**

**Location: Salle A**

The Panel will focus on the role of mine action as an enabler of durable solutions for displaced people in different contexts. The Panel will reinforce the vision that durable solutions should involve strong national buy-in and government accountability. The Panel will also focus on the power of partnerships in providing a comprehensive durable solution to the multiple challenges faced by displaced persons.

**Moderator:** Ms. Agi Veres, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva

### **Panelists:**

- Dr. Sabah AL-Hussaini, Director of Iraq Mine Action Authority (DMA)
- Ms. Mariany Monroy, AICMA Colombia Coordinator
- Mr. Sam Cheung, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR
- Ms. Josephine Dresner, Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships, Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

**Guiding Questions:**

- What are the biggest challenges for linking mine action to the safe movement of displaced persons?
- What is the role of mine action actors in the multi-partner efforts aimed at ensuring coherent solutions for displaced persons?
- How do you see mine action as an enabler of durable solutions for displaced people in different contexts?
- Why is national buy-in critical for the durable solutions to displaced persons to be effective? Please provide some successful best practices which can be replicated

**12:00 - 12:45****Lunch****12:45 - 14:00****Side Events****Salle B**

Path to Completion  
for Mine Action in  
Sri Lanka

**NMAC Sri Lanka****Salle C1**

Status of Mine Action in Southeast Asia 50  
year after the Paris Peace Accord and 25  
years after the APMBC entered into force  
what is the path towards completion

**UNDP with the NMAA in Thailand,  
Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR****Salle C2**

IMAS: What's  
New

**GICHD****14:00 - 14:15****Break****14:15 - 15:30****Plenary Session 2 - Mine Action, Climate and the Environment****Location: Salle A**

The mine action sector must play its part in reducing climate change and protecting the environment by better understanding the relationship between mine action activities, climate change and the communities where we work. This panel will explore: why this topic is of utmost importance for national authorities, implementing partners and donors alike; provide practical examples of measures underway at each stage of operations (planning and tasking, during survey and clearance operations, and post-clearance); and identify some of the barriers and challenges to progress. It will also set out a vision of the many positive contributions mine action can make to environmental safeguarding and climate resilience.

**Moderator:** Ms. Lucy Pinches, Project Manager, Mine Action Review**Panelists:**

- Ms. Kristin Holme Obrestad, Senior Advisor Climate and Environment, NPA
- Ms. Karen Chandler, Director, PM/WRA, U.S. Department of State
- Mr. Saša Obradović, Director of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center (BHMAC)
- Ms. Abigail Hartley, Chief, Policy, Advocacy, Donor Relations and Outreach, UNMAS TBC

**Guiding Questions:**

- Why are environmental considerations important for mine action and how can we improve the environmental outcomes of mine clearance operations?
- What practical first steps are taken already/should national authorities, implementing partners and donors take?
- What are the challenges to environmental mainstreaming?
- What should our collective mine action vision be for supporting climate resilience and communities impacted by climate change?

**15:30 - 16:00****Coffee****Location: outside Salle A****16:00 - 17:15****Plenary Session 3 - Liability in the Land Release Process****Location: Salle A**

Mine action activities are supported by legal frameworks within the countries where they take place. These legal frameworks are vital to ensuring actors carrying out activities, and those communities directly affected by them, are protected by a clear legal understanding of the various responsibilities and obligations of each party. This is especially important when it comes to issues around liability and how stakeholders are liable at different stages of the land release process, and as mine action programmes transit into a residual phase. Concerns include a range of issues, such as who is liable once land has been handed over to communities, to ensuring that deminers are insured. Several countries have expressed the need to better understand this difficult and often misunderstood topic, which is made even more complex as each country has its own legal system. This panel will explore several the issues surrounding liability from the perspective of different stakeholders, including mine action authorities, INGOs and donors.

**Moderator:** Ms. Kinda Samra, Programme Officer, GICHD**Panelists:**

- Ms. Katherine Baker, East Asia and Pacific Branch Chief, PM/WRA, U.S. Department of State
- Mr. Chim Chansideth, Director of Regulation and Monitoring, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)
- Mr. Matthew Wilson, Head of Operations, FSD or Ms. Angela De Santis, Colombia Country Director, FSD
- Mr. Bojan Glamočlija, Director of Serbian Mine Action Center (SMAC)
- Mr. Clifford Tunuki, Head of Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), EOD team

**Guiding Questions:**

- What does liability mean to you in your mine action activities?
- How does consideration of liability affect your work?
- Do you feel issues around liability are supportive or inhibitive for mine action?
- What do you need from a liability policy to enable your work to proceed?
- How might liability be best tackled in your context?



## Friday 23 June

**08:30 - 09:00**

**Coffee**

**Location: outside Salle A**

**09:00 - 10:15**

**Plenary Session 4 - Fulfilling the Rights of Survivors, from immediate Responsive Care to an independent, Dignified Life**

**Location: Salle A**

This session will look at two fundamental challenges facing direct victims of explosive ordnance. First, surviving: one in three persons who suffer an EO accident does not survive. The MA AoR has partnered with the University of Washington to translate advances in trauma care in low-resource settings into a best practice bundle of key interventions from the point of injury to definitive care at a health facility. Second, building their lives back. We will discuss the latest initiatives designed to close the gap between the normative regime on victim assistance and the reality of individuals living with severe impairments in conflict and peacebuilding situations.

**Moderator:** Ms. Stacey Pizzino, School of Public Health, University of Queensland

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Hannah Wild, General Surgery Resident, University of Washington
- Mr. Giles Duley, UN Global Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Conflict & Peacebuilding Situations
- Brig. Gen Emmanuel Kazahura, Chair of the APMBC Committee on Victim Assistance, Uganda

**Guiding Questions:**

- Victims live in a larger context where race, gender, stigmatization of persons with disability may all dictate access to care and respect for rights. How do we increase survival rates and respect for the rights of all explosive ordnance survivors?
- What are the latest developments in basic first aid training and implementation opportunities for first responders?
- What support can be made available to governments trying to make their emergency response more effective?
- What are some of the successful and replicable practices of victim assistance?

**10:15 - 10:30**

**Break**

**10:30 - 11:45**

**Side Events**

*Salle A*

Partnering for Impact  
**UNOPS**

*Salle B*

Operational Efficiency in Mine Action: Unpacking Key Performance Indicators  
**GICHD**

*Salle C1*

Mine Action challenges and National Response  
**Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan ANAMA**

*Salle C2*

EWIPA Political Declaration and ERW – Practical Aspects of the Political Declaration and How to Support/Advocate for Adherence to Commitments therein  
**ODA, UNICEF and the EWIPA Coordination Cell**

**11:45 - 12:00****Break****12:00 - 13:15****Side Events***Salle B*

EORE: Paradigm Shift to Universal Prevention and Social-Behavior Change

**UNICEF with the EORE Advisory Group**

*Salle C1*

Lebanon Case: Overcoming Challenges in Times of Uncertainty

**LMAP, UNDP, Netherlands, GICHD**

*Salle C2*

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mine Action: Where Do We Go From Here

**UNMAS, UNOPS and the Gender and Diversity Working Group**

**13:15 - 14:00****Lunch****14:00 - 15:15****Side Events***Salle A*

Balancing Clearance and Contamination Needs in Fragile Environments and Legacy Contexts

**The Halo Trust**

*Salle B*

Mine Action in the Nexus Debate – Why Local Approaches are more Sustainable and Effective

**Danish Refugee Council and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN**

*Salle C1*

Seeing is Believing – The Power of Small Drone Mapping for Land Release

**Humanity and Inclusion with NPA, Mobility Robotics, GICHD and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands**

*Salle C2*

Progress Towards the UN Mine Action Strategy and a Look at Sector-wide Initiatives in Monitoring and Evaluation

**UNMAS with IACG-MA and Partners**

**15:15 - 15:30****Coffee****Location: outside Salle A****15:30 - 16:45****Plenary Session 5 - Innovation in Mine Action Cannot Wait****Location: Salle A**

True innovation in Mine Action is about much more than advances in technology and their application in the sector. Why are traditional humanitarian mine clearance practices still in use, why has so little changed. This plenary aims to open a discussion with all stakeholders critical to ensuring innovation in mine action, national authorities, donors, operators and the UN. Are certain operating environments more conducive to new technologies? Innovation in one operating context may not be transferable. How do we keep our focus on innovation for the purpose of operational efficiency and effective humanitarian mine action, returning homes, land and resources to communities for their use.



**Moderator:** Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director GICHD

**Panelists:**

- Ms. Fatima Nana Mamman Daura, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, National Humanitarian Action Committee, Nigeria
- Mr. John Fardoulis, Project Partner and Mobility Robotics Director, Humanity and Inclusion (HI)
- Ms. Caroline Masbounji, Gender-Based Violence Specialist, Technology and Innovations, UNICEF
- Mr. Amir Omeragic, Director, Peace and Security Cluster, UNOPS

**Guiding Questions:**

- What are the 'big pictures' challenges to innovation in the mine action sector?
- What is the role of new technology to enable innovation in the mine action sector?
- How do we create the conditions for innovation in different operating contexts?
- How do we empower all mine action stakeholders to be innovative in mine action?

**16:45 - 17:15**

**Closing Ceremony**

- Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
- Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director, UNMAS

**Location: Salle A**

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