

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

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



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GICHD





Thursday 22 June

10:00 - 10:45

Opening Ceremony

Location: Salle A

- Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
- Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
- Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director, UNMAS
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peace Operations and Chair, Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, United Nations (video message)
- Representative of Switzerland - TBC
- Mr. Robert Piper, Special Advisor of United Nations Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement.

A minute of silence for fallen colleagues will be observed.

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 (TBC)
- Ms. Josephine Dresner, Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships, Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Guiding Questions: *Details forthcoming*

12:00-12:45

Lunch

12:45 - 14:00

Side Events

Salle A

*Details
forthcoming*

Salle B

*Details
forthcoming*

Salle C1

*Details
forthcoming*

Salle C2

*Details
forthcoming*

**14:00-15:30****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, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Mr. Tran Trung Hoa, Director-General, Vietnam National Mine Action Center (TBC)
- Mr. Jean-Denis Larsen, Chief of Mine Action Programme, UNMAS, MONUSCO, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

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**Break****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: *Details forthcoming*

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

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

Panelist:

- Ms. 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 Victim Assistance Committee

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

*Details
forthcoming*

Salle B

*Details
forthcoming*

Salle C1

*Details
forthcoming*

Salle C2

*Details
forthcoming*

11:45-12:00

Break

**12:00-13:15****Side Events****Salle A***Details forthcoming***Salle B***Details forthcoming***Salle C1***Details forthcoming***Salle C2***Details forthcoming***13:15-14:00****Lunch****14:00-15:15****Side Events****Salle A***Details forthcoming***Salle B***Details forthcoming***Salle C1***Details forthcoming***Salle C2***Details forthcoming***15:50-15:30****Break****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: *Details forthcoming*



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

Location: Salle A

- Mr. Alexandre Zouev, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations , United Nations
- Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
- Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director, UNMAS



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