

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session One: International Humanitarian Law and Mine Action, Progress and Challenges

Date and Time:	11.30 - 12.45, Tuesday 7 February 2017
Chair:	Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva and Chair of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Speakers:	Ms. Megan Burke, Director, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) Ms. Kathleen Lawand, Head of Arms Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mr. Khaled Rashed, General Director, Directorate of Mine Action, Iraq
Location:	Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

Over the last twenty years, international humanitarian law (IHL) pertaining to humanitarian mine action has achieved some notable successes. For example, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) is now ratified by 162 out of 193 Member States. However, as the production, transfer and use of landmines has been curtailed and casualties reduced, there has been an increase in the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), often directly targeting civilians, contrary to IHL. Furthermore, casualty figures have increased again in recent years, partly due to IEDs and partly due to increasing casualties from explosive remnants of war.

Purpose of the Session

The purpose of the session is to reflect on the achievements and lessons of the last two decades and generate proposals for key areas of work in the years ahead. The status of the APMBC as it approaches its twentieth anniversary will be reflected upon, as well as how respect for IHL remains critical in addressing threats to civilians from conventional explosive weapons in contemporary armed conflicts. The case study from Iraq will provide the perspective of an affected state which was focused on the goals of the APMBC, but has recently had to adapt to the increased humanitarian threat of other types of explosive hazards.

Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Megan Burke	15 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Kathleen Lawand	15 minutes
Presentation by the Mr. Khaled Rashed	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair and panelists	5 minutes

Food for Thought:

- How can the success of the APMBC be consolidated and replicated in other Conventions?
- What are the major challenges to improving adherence to IHL in today's conflicts?
- How should IEDs be understood within the framework of APMBC?

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session Two: Mine Action as a Confidence Building Measure in Reconciliation and Peace Processes

Date and time: 15:00 - 16:00, Tuesday 7 February 2017
Chair: Ambassador Beatriz Londoño-Soto, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva
Speakers: Nobel Peace co-laureate, Mr. Rae McGrath, founder of MAG and co-founder of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines
Mr. Amarathunga, National Director, Sri Lanka
Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
Location: Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

The goal of this session is to demonstrate how mine action can serve as an important confidence building measure in reconciliation and peace processes. The plenary will incorporate perspectives from various peace processes from different eras and regions and will also include a short introduction to a new piece of desktop research on the inclusion of mine action into peace agreements.

Purpose of the Session

The purpose of the session is to examine how mine action has, and is, being used to build confidence in peace processes, for example through the use of teams from different sides of the conflict working together to promote community recovery. It will also include the findings of recent research into the role of mine action in peace agreements, highlighting strengths and weaknesses of previous negotiated processes from the perspective of humanitarian mine action.

Format for the Plenary: (60 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Nobel co-Laureate Mr. Rae McGrath	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Amarathunga	10 minutes
Presentation by Ambassador Stefano Toscano	10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	10 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair and panelists	10 minutes

Food for Thought:

- How can mine action operators improve the understanding among peace negotiators of the role that humanitarian mine action can play as a confidence building measure?
- What are the greatest challenges to using mine action as a way to build confidence in a peace process?

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session Three: Mine Action Facilitating and Supporting Stabilization

Date and time: 10:00 - 11.15, Wednesday 8 February 2017
Chair: Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament
Speakers: Ambassador Ekkehard Brose, Special Envoy for Crisis Prevention and Stabilization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
Col. Mohamed Turjman, National Director of Libyan Mine Action Centre
Mr. Frank Meeussen, Mine Action Focal Point, Division for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Export Control of the European External Action Service
Location: Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

The concept of stabilization is becoming increasingly important to many stakeholders working in the context of fragile conflict-affected countries. This session will examine the ways in which mine action can work to create space for stabilization activities.

Purpose of the Session

The session will provide an opportunity for delegates to understand the concept of stabilization from the perspective of various stakeholders, including that of an affected state as well as other states working to support stabilization activities in partnership with host governments. The session will include a case study from Libya, explaining the role of the National Mine Action Authority in coordinating with other government authorities (Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior) to enable the safe and dignified return of the displaced population to the town of Sirte, which was recently liberated from the control of Da'esh.

Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Ekkehard Brose	15 minutes
Presentation by Col. Mohamed Turjman	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Frank Meeussen	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	10 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair and panelists	5 minutes

Food for Thought:

- Why has the concept of stabilization become so important in the context of today's conflicts?
- What are the specific challenges for mine action actors participating in stabilization strategies?

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session Four: Integrating Protection into Humanitarian Mine Action Planning

Date and time: 11:45 – 13:00, Wednesday 8 February 2017
Chair: Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR
Speakers: Ms. Monica Sanchez Bermudez, Global Advisor, Norwegian Refugee Council
Ms. Yngvil Foss, Programme Manager Afghanistan, UNMAS
Mr. Andrew Wyllie, Chief of Programme Support Branch, OCHA
Location: Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

Mine action plays a crucial role in humanitarian responses. The 2017 Global Humanitarian Needs Overview¹ has highlighted the diversity of threats posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices in complex emergencies. Mine action also features as a strategic priority of the Global Protection Cluster and in individual country Humanitarian Response Plans. The criticality of mine action for broader humanitarian assistance has been increasingly acknowledged, and mine action is now better integrated in humanitarian planning processes.

Purpose of the Session

The goal of this session is to make the case for a more systematic integration of protection analysis into mine action programming and projects. Panellists will discuss the link between land issues and mine action in general and, more specifically, the challenges and urgency of providing for the safe resettlement of populations in Afghanistan. The session will further highlight the importance of partnerships with relevant humanitarian actors for improved information sharing and effective, strategically prioritized mine action activities.

Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Monica Sanchez Bermudez	15 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Yngvil Foss	15 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Andrew Wyllie	15 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair and panelists	5 minutes

Food for thought

- How can engaging on broader protection issues yield a more integrated and effective mine action response?
- Which land issues may affect or be affected by mine action, and how could this be addressed in the planning priorities of mine action actors?
- As a mine action practitioner, how could you use the insights and experiences of new partners to strengthen your response?

¹ Prepared by OCHA in consultation with humanitarian partners, the Global Humanitarian Needs Overview (GHO) provides a comprehensive overview of humanitarian needs and funding requirements in various humanitarian emergencies.

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session Five: Mine Action as an “Accelerator” towards the SDGs

Date and time:	15:30- 16:30, Wednesday, 8 February 2017
Co- Chairs:	Ambassador Inigo Lambertini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Mr. Nik Sekhwan, Director, Sustainable Development Cluster, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme
Speakers:	Mr. Shafiq Yousafi, National Director, Afghanistan Mr. Bounphamith, Deputy Director of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in the Lao PDR (NRA) Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD
Location:	Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

Since January 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have shaped global development efforts. Mine action has a key role to play in achieving the SDGs in complex development contexts, specifically fragile states and pre-post conflict societies. Mine action should be viewed as a unique catalytic activity that not only reduces violence and contributes to re-establishing safe and stable environments, but also enables the recovery process and builds the foundations for longer-term sustainable development goals. As such, it can help accelerate progress across many of the SDGs. By strengthening conceptual and operational ties with SDG implementation, in particular at national level, the contribution of mine action to sustainable development is increasingly relevant and impactful on the broader development landscape.

Purpose of the Session

The panel presentations will explore how mine action can play a strategic role in mainstreaming and accelerating national implementation of the 2030 Agenda in contaminated countries. After a discussion of preliminary findings a joint UNDP-GICHD study on this topic, mine/ERW-affected and donor States will provide updates on how they have started to mainstream the 2030 Agenda at national level and addressed specific challenges.

Format for the Plenary: (60 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chairs	10 minutes
Presentation by Ambassador Stefano Toscano	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Bounphamith	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Shafiq Rashid	10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chairs and panelists	5 minutes

Food for Thought:

- Why should mine action align itself with the 2030 Agenda? What are the benefits?
- How can mine action contributions towards the 2030 Agenda be identified conceptually? How should they influence mine action planning, implementation and monitoring?
- What challenges do stakeholders face in mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda in mine action at the country?

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session Six: Mine Action Innovations (Methodologies and Technologies)

Date and time:	10:00 - 11:30, Thursday 9 February 2017
Co-Chairs:	Ms. Tammy Hall, Head of Strategies and Standards, GICHD Mr. Thuch Ly, Secretary-General, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA).
Speakers:	Mr. Karl Dhaene, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations (on IEDD Standards) Mr. Paul Heslop, Chief of Programmes, UNMAS (on UNMAS Innovations in Middle East) Ms. Judy Grayson, UNICEF (on Results Framework for Integrated Mine Action) Mr. Elias Papaioannou, London Business School (on Quantifying Economic Impact of Mine Action) Mr. Olivier Cottray, Head of Information Management, GICHD (on IMSMA Core) <i>Technology Workshop Video</i> Ms. Camille Wallen, Global Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, HALO (on Mobile technologies)
Location:	Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

Methods, tools and technologies have evolved to improve performance and monitoring of mine action programmes over the last 20 years. This session will explore these dimensions through short interventions from a wide variety of contributors. This will include the developments in standards, the development of new technologies and operational methods and tools as well as methods for measuring the impact 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: (90 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chairs	5 minutes
6 x 10 min presentations	60 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chairs and panelists	10 minutes

Food for Thought:

- Looking back on innovation dynamics in the last 20 years, what can we expect from the future?
- Which innovations will shape mine Action in the coming years?

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session Seven: Community-Based Approaches for Effective Action

Date and time: 11:45-12:45, Thursday 9 February 2017
Chair: Mr. Andrés Franco, Deputy Director for Private Sector
Engagement, Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division,
UNICEF
Speakers: Ambassador Staffan Tillander, Director of Rule of Law & Security
Institutions Group, United Nations Mission in Somalia
Mr. U Myo Set Aung, Director of the Department of Social
Welfare, Myanmar
Ms. Asma Hamadi, Civil Society Representative, Libya
Location: Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

To develop mine action strategies that are truly *needs driven* and *people centred*, national authorities and operators should adopt community-based approaches throughout several or all stages of the programme cycle. “*A community-based approach is a way of working in partnership with persons of concern during all stages of the programme cycle. It recognizes the resilience, capacities, skills and resources of persons of concern, builds on these to deliver protection and solutions, and supports the community’s own goals*¹”.

Purpose of the Session

This session will explore practical examples from three countries where community-based strategies pay off in mine action or beyond mine action. The aim is to identify the main successes and challenges, and highlight best practices based on recent examples and experiences both in mine action and non-mine action settings.

Format for the Plenary: (60 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	10 minutes
Presentation by Ambassador Staffan Tillander	10 minutes
Presentation by Ms. Asma Hamadi	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. U Myo Set Aung	10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	10 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair and panelists	10 minutes

Food for Thought:

- Can community-based approaches be scaled up at national scale and not just be confined to pilot projects or a limited number of local projects? If so, would these national projects be cost-effective?
- How should mine action operators and national authorities manage contexts where their responsibility, approach or prioritization schemes do not coincide with community practices or priorities?
- To which extent are ‘community-based projects’ truly involving communities? Can a project be considered ‘community-based’ if communities remain passive in the decision-process? In the mine action sector, do we attempt to measure the degree of participation of communities? If not how can we?

¹ UNHCR 2008, ‘A Community-Based Approach in UNHCR Operation’s, available at <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/47da54722.pdf>

BACKGROUND NOTE
Plenary Session Eight: The Challenges of Completion

Date and time:	10.00 - 11.15, Friday 10 February 2017
Co-Chairs:	Dr. Vincent Choffat, Policy and Military Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in Geneva Mr. Nik Sekhran, Director, Sustainable Development Cluster, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme
Speakers:	Ambassador Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva Ambassador Michael Biontino, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament Mr. Ly Thuch Secretary General, Cambodia Mine Action Authority (CMAA) Mr. Mkhulili Ncube, Director, Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) Mr. Adriano Goncalves, Advisor, Angola National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance
Location:	Room XIX, E building, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolutions A/RES/70/54 and A/RES/70/55 stressing the importance of universalizing and implementing the APMBC and CCM, giving an impetus to international cooperation on mine action. Indeed, the struggle against landmines and their impact on human security and development of countries and societies is not yet over and other explosive remnants of war continue to pose a threat to lives and livelihoods in countries affected by violence and conflict. Moreover, when mine action is conducted without an understanding of the development context within which it takes place, it can be complicated by issues of national prioritization, governance, social inequality and marginalization of those affected.

In the area of mine clearance, notable progress has been steady as 28 States Parties have completed their obligations since the APMBC came into force in 1999. However, the number of extension requests in accordance with Article 5 of the APMBC has constantly risen throughout recent years. Of the 33 states still working towards meeting their clearance obligations, eight states (Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Ukraine, Yemen, Zimbabwe) have pending deadlines in the next 3 years.

Purpose of the Session

This session aims to discuss the challenges and steps being taken by States Parties that are in the process of preparing their Article 5 extension requests for submission in 2017 (*Angola and Zimbabwe*); noting that a further 15 States will be meeting their deadlines in 2019 and 2020 (such as *Cambodia*) – as well as a similar discussion on the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)

Introductory remarks by co-Chairs	10 minutes
Presentation by Ambassador Hajnoczi	10 minutes
Presentation by Ambassador Biontino	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Ly Thuch	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Mkhulili Ncube	10 minutes
Presentation by Mr. Adriano Goncalves	10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	10 minutes
Closing remarks by the co-Chairs	05 minutes

Food for Thought:

- What are the major challenges to implementation?
 - Financial
 - Information
 - Technological
 - Physical Environment
 - Institutional and Human Capacity
 - Political Support
- What steps have been taken to overcome these challenges?
- What have been the key steps you have taken at the domestic level?
- What are the key steps you have taken at the level of international cooperation?