



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Intersessional Meetings of the **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**Statement on matters related to the mandate of the Committee on the Enhancement
of Cooperation and Assistance**

Geneva, 19 May 2016

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS

Mr. Chair,¹

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) comprising several United Nations entities² involved in mine action.

The United Nations acknowledges the report on the activities of the Committee, as well as your preliminary observations. The United Nations supports the recommendations of the Committee as reflected in the Final Report of the 14th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (14MSP), in particular the one related to intensifying regional and international cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation, public-private partnerships and by sharing national experiences, best practices, resources and technology to implement the Convention.

Through its Strategy on Mine Action 2013-2018, the United Nations committed to establishing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess progress in the implementation of its strategic objectives. As you know, the monitoring and evaluation mechanism is in place, and twenty-five countries in which the United Nations supports mine action participated in the last round of data collection. The following are some recent findings from this initiative:

- Reported casualties from mines/ERW increased very slightly from 2014 to 2015, as did the casualty rate, which increased from 3.3 to 3.8 casualties due to mines/ERW per million people per month.

¹ The Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance is chaired by Switzerland. The other members are Mexico, Netherlands and Uganda.

² The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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- UN-supported mine action programmes report that increasing proportions of contaminated land and infrastructure have been identified, cleared, and returned back to communities. Cumulatively, over 8 million Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) spot tasks have been completed, with the average number of completed EOD spot tasks per country increasing by eight per cent in 2015 relative to 2014.
- In 2015 alone, Mine/ERW risk education programmes reached over 1 million additional people. Cumulatively, 35 million people have received Mine/ERW Risk Education in countries and territories with a UN mine action presence.
- The distributions of assessed capacity in coordination and mine action planning – evaluated through the Capacity Assessment Tool of the M&E Mechanism – are particularly remarkable. All but two of the participating countries or territories have at least basic capacity in place, and four have independent capacity in place, in both coordination and planning.

This last finding indicates a potential opportunity for South-South cooperation, with countries having achieved a higher and independent capacity in coordination and planning, assisting peers with basic or moderate capacity in place. In that regards, the United Nations stands ready to further assist and strengthen such South-South initiatives.

Mr. Chair,

Member States, the United Nations and other actors will gather next week in Istanbul for the World Humanitarian Summit. States and other stakeholders will endorse core commitments and announce specific commitments, the implementation of which should contribute in strengthening the integration of mine action into humanitarian action.

The United Nations calls upon States Parties, especially those affected by mines and explosive remnants of war, to commit to support programmes aimed at clearing antipersonnel mines through providing information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove and destroy antipersonnel mines.

States Parties should also commit to support public information campaigns, education, training and liaison with communities aimed at sensitizing affected populations to the risks posed by antipersonnel landmines and explosive hazards, thus ensuring mine action is well addressed during the World Humanitarian Summit.

Thank you.