

**BACKGROUND NOTE**  
**Plenary Session V.**

**MINE ACTION FINANCING IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Date and time: Friday, 24 June 2022, 14:30 p.m. – 15:45 p.m. (CEST)  
Chair: MASG Chair **Ambassador Yves Marek**  
Speakers: **Ms. Karen Chandler** – Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Programs and Operations, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, United States Department of State  
**Mr. Peter Larsson** – Head of Sector, Directorate for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace, European External Action Service, European Union  
**Ms. Yessika Morales** – Deputy Peace Commissioner, Coordinator of the Mine Action Working Group in the Office of the Peace Commissioner, Colombia  
**Brig. Gen. Khalid Hamdan Adam Abdallah** – Director General, National Mine Action Center, Republic of the Sudan

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**Introduction**

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian needs have risen exponentially. According to OCHA, 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022. This number is a significant increase from 235 million people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades. Yet, the gap between requirements and funding is higher than ever, namely, \$40.18 billion.<sup>1</sup>

Mine action sector needs are on the rise too. Between September 2021 and April 2022, 301 children were killed or injured by Explosive Remnants of War and landmines in Afghanistan, yet donors hesitate to continue their support for mine action in Afghanistan because of the Taliban take-over of government functions. Other countries, such as Cambodia, Chad, Serbia and Tajikistan, have indicated that they need additional capacity and assistance to meet their APMBC obligations to clear contamination in areas under their control. Indeed, many affected countries are unable to allocate national resources needed to clear contamination and therefore rely on foreign assistance to address their mine action needs. At the same time, new contamination is reported every year<sup>2</sup>, most recently in Ukraine, where the eastern region was already one of the most contaminated areas in the world before the outbreak of the war in February 2022.

The mine action sector has proved itself resilient. It is one of the Global Protection Cluster's best funded sub-clusters, with 2020 levels standing at approximately 60%. Funding trends, however, identify a number of inequalities. Out of the approximately \$560 million international contributions to mine action, 75% came from just five donors. At the same time, the majority of funding went to only a small number of the 53 countries and three territories with mine action

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<sup>1</sup> OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Landmine Monitor 2021, p. 29-30

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needs. The top five recipients (Iraq, Lao PDR, Afghanistan, Colombia and Croatia) received 45% of the total funding. There are also discrepancies in the distribution of funds across mine action activities, as 68% of available funds went to clearance and EORE. Funding for Victim Assistance meanwhile declined by 23% between 2019 and 2020.<sup>3</sup>

### **Purpose of the Session**

This session will invite leading mine action donors to explain their mine action strategies and priority-setting methods to inform participants of resource mobilization opportunities and enable alignment of donor and mine action programmes priorities. The session will also feature interventions from representatives of country beneficiaries of mine action assistance on how to better coordinate donor priorities with national needs. The speakers will reflect on good practices of securing funding for mine action in national budgets.

### **Guiding questions**

- How can current international support levels for mine action be maintained or increased? What challenges affect mine action funding and how can these be mitigated?
- How do donors prioritize funding allocation? Is mine action reaching populations that have the most urgent needs? What support can be made available to States Parties trying to meet their APMBC commitments but hindered by inadequate funds?
- Are there any funding opportunities beyond the traditional funding streams?
- How can national mine action authorities better articulate and convey national mine action priorities to the donor community in order to align donor funding with national needs? Are there any successful examples of securing medium- to long-term funding for mine action from national budgets? What are some of the successful and replicable practices of fund mobilization/ advocacy for mine action from national budgets that can be shared?

### **Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)**

Introductory remarks by Chair	05 minutes
Presentation by the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs on US mine action priorities and criteria for upcoming tender/funding opportunities	10 minutes
Presentation by EU on the availability of different funding modalities	10 minutes
Presentation by the national mine action authorities on aligning donor priorities with national needs and securing mine action financing from national budgets	x2 10 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	25 minutes
Closing remarks by Chair	05 minutes

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<sup>3</sup> ICBL, Landmine monitor 2021, Support for Mine Action, p. 98 – 103.