

*Mine Action Support Group – MASG
Open Session
12 February 2020*

Thematic Update 12.00

UNMAS coordinating task force on a whole of UN system approach (SG’s disarmament agenda “Saving Lives”, Action 18.

- *The Secretary-General in his Agenda for Disarmament requested “United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Mine Action Service, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other relevant United Nations entities, [to] promote a strengthened and coherent United Nations inter-agency coordination on improvised explosive devices to ensure a whole-of-system approach.”*
- *In implementing this call for action, UNMAS carried out a mapping survey on the exposure and response to the IED threat of about 30 UN entities.*
- *Main findings:*
 - *Lack of understanding of the extent of the IED threat and impact on the UN, both Member States and UN system. Combined with a lack of specific*

- coordination, data, information, training, capacity and resources.*
- Most UN entities' work is impacted, directly or indirectly, by the IED threat;*
 - The use and presence of IEDs affect field as well as HQ based activities, across the peace and security/humanitarian, human rights/ development spectrum.*
 - The UN "response" encompasses a wide range of expertise at operational as well as doctrine and policy levels. IED is not confined to an area: disarmament, Counter-Terrorism, security*
- Based on these findings, I have convened at the Director's level the first meeting of the UN Coordinating Task Force on a whole-of-UN Approach to IEDS late January.*
 - This meeting gathered 15 UN entities that directly contribute to the UN response. Participants have expressed support to UNMAS initiative and underlined the need for a coordination (DPPA, CTED, OMA, Sanction Committee, UNDP, UNDSS, UNICEF, UNIDIR, UNOCT, UNODC)*

- *The senior level meeting generated guidance on the benefits and expected achievements of a strengthened coordination for a whole-of-system approach:*
- *Create a network of UN entities to learn from and support one another;*
- *Enhance UN system operational effectiveness, use of resources and prevent duplication of effort;*
- *Strengthen UN in-house capacities through a commonly accessible “UN tool-box”;*
- *Raise awareness of UN leadership and leverage external support*
- *Improve UN support to and interaction with regional organizations and arrangements*
- *Assist UN leadership and member states with a more comprehensive toolbox.*

- *The meeting also discussed expected and concrete accomplishments:*
 1. *Establish common understanding in the use of terminology;*
 2. *centralize knowledge of existing capabilities, improve data collection and analysis,*
 3. *and establish a UN Toolbox.*

This will inform the programme of work of the Task Force for the upcoming months.