

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session 1. Mine Action and the HDP Nexus

Date and time: **Thursday 23 June, 10:45am-12:00pm**

Chair: **Ms. Agi Veres**, Director of UNDP Office in Geneva

Speakers: **Mr. Sasa Obradovic**, Director of the Mine Action Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms. Naomi Konza, Project Coordination Specialist: Mine Action for Human Development UNDP Cambodia
Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director UNMAS
Ms. Jo Dresner, Director of Policy (MAG)

Introduction

Crises need humanitarian, development and peace solutions. No one actor, or one type of actor, can provide a comprehensive solution to the multiple challenges of crises alone. Hence, the humanitarian development peace nexus (HDP nexus) calls for coherent responses that address all the multiple dimensions of a crisis – humanitarian solutions to save lives and preserve dignity; development solutions to prevent crises, deal with the root causes, provide choice and opportunity, and build the foundations of a stable recovery; and peace solutions to drive and mediate political solutions and provide hard security solutions when necessary.

Mine action is vital for saving lives, but also acts as a precursor for peacebuilding, stabilization and sustainable development. Mine action can play an important role in the nexus between peace, humanitarian response and development, and can be a cornerstone in preventing relapse into conflict.

Since the early humanitarian clearance efforts in the late 1980s, the mine action sector has significantly evolved, developing into a highly professionalized sector, supported by a growing body of international norms and standards, significant technological advancements, and able to operate in diverse contexts. Today, as was the case thirty years ago it remains clear that, in order to be effective and sustainable in the long term, mine action efforts need to rely on solid national ownership and commitment.

As the landscape of contamination changes – geographically and technically – there is a need to reflect on the role of mine action in various contexts, and its catalytic role in the HDP nexus.

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Purpose of the Session

This panel takes a broad look at the catalytic role of mine action in different contexts where the HDP nexus approach is applied. It will offer observations and reflections on how mine action serves as an enabler of humanitarian response, development initiatives as well as peace processes. Presentations by national authorities, the United Nations and operators will show how mine action programming can promote HDP approaches in crisis and post-crisis contexts and how it can provide a bridge across the different nexus actors and forums. Presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion to address ways in which mine action can be tailored to specific national contexts and needs. It will also examine the underlying conditions that are necessary for mine action to be effective in the HDP nexus; address ways to measure impacts and progress; and provide insights on ensuring robust exit strategies that allow national institutions to address outstanding challenges.

Time line of the Plenary: (75 minutes)

Introductory remarks by the Chair	05 minutes
Presentations by the panelists	40 minutes
Q & A	25 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair	5 minutes