

## **REPORT OF MASG SECRETARIAT – MASG MEETING – 9 February 2017**

I organized and attended the last MASG meeting held in New York on Tuesday, 11 October 2016 and then prepared and distributed the minutes of that meeting. A number of matters arose from that meeting which I have followed up.

Previously, I organized and attended the MASG meeting in Geneva on 18 February 2016. In addition, I assisted the Italian Chair of the MASG (Ambassador Lambertini) in preparing and chairing a victim assistance session which was held as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of National Mine Action Directors and UN Advisers in Geneva on 17 February 2016.

Since 2012 I have represented the MASG on the Review Board for the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). I attended the annual IMAS Review Board meeting held in Geneva on 6 February 2017 and will comment on the draft minutes when circulated. During the year I have commented on a number of technical issues and draft IMAS, such as environmental matters and the use of free running dogs.

Since February 2016 I have also continued with the routine Secretariat functions, such as;

- Maintained the MASG Contact List and email groups
- Updated the MASG website (on the UN E-Mine website)
- Assisted with notices, emails and correspondence for the MASG
- Drafted handover notes for the incoming Italian chair
- Arranged MASG meetings e.g. this one today
- Regularly liaised with the Italian Chair of the MASG
- Liaised with the US State Department on the grant for the MASG Secretariat function

Finally, in anticipation of the MASG Secretariat function continuing I have prepared a draft workplan for 2017

As at 7 February 2017