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United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(17-20 June 2025)

Statement under agenda item 4b. Mine Risk Education and Reduction

Delivered by Christelle Loupforest, UNMAS

Geneva, 17 June 2025

Ms. President¹,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)².

Excellencies,

From Syria to Sudan, from Ethiopia to Afghanistan, from Ukraine to Colombia, the needs for explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) are immense, and unfortunately only growing as the threat from anti-personnel mines continues to spread.

The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan emphasizes the importance of mine-risk education as part of a comprehensive approach to mine action. Collaboration and innovation are improving the impact of EORE, and reducing the risk that affected communities face. I would like to highlight three promising EORE initiatives: a collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization to

¹ H.E. Ms. Tomiko Ichikawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, President of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the States Parties.

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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reach farmers; a collective effort to integrate first aid and risk education; and an EORE platform fostering collaboration at the country level.

Farmers and herding communities are particularly at risk of landmine accidents. UNMAS and FAO collaborate to enable them to recognize mine hazards and adopt safe behaviours. The Farmer Field Schools run by FAO will be used as a platform to deliver risk education, ensuring that safety messages reach smallholder farmers and their communities. It will also provide alternative livelihoods to further reduce the risk. This scheme harnesses an evidence-based approach whereby messages delivered by a trusted messenger are more likely to influence their behaviour and ultimately protect lives.

EORE is particularly important as most anti-personnel mine accidents occur in countries where health-care systems have been weakened by years of armed conflict. Coordination among health-care providers, security forces, NGOs and community members is essential to address these gaps. Leveraging the expertise of mine action partners for trauma care, the Explosive Weapons Trauma Care Collective (EXTRACCT) is adapting the WHO's Community First Aid Responder training, and paramedics involved in clearance operations are building the capacity of local communities to deliver first aid and improve the chances that victims survive the initial blast.

Incorporating skills-based community trauma response and first aid basics into mine action has existed as a concept for years. The members of EXTRACCT are working to make it a standard practice with MAG, HALO Trust, NPA and HI integrating it into their risk education programmes. I take this opportunity to thank the Ambassador of Burkina Faso for her leadership on victim assistance and for promoting this multi-country pilot programme with other national directors during the NDM-UN 28. The expansion of this programme is urgent to reduce preventable deaths and improve long-term recovery for victims.

The EORE Advisory Group is a powerful forum to disseminate best practice. The network was established to foster collective thinking and resource sharing in the field of risk education and



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behavioural change. After five years, the group, led by UNICEF and a rotating NGO, presently HALO Trust, has proven its ability to effectively serve the EORE community and mobilize other partners and sectors. This momentum must continue with greater emphasis on localizing EORE and empowering affected communities.

A last point on new technologies: EORE has benefited from integrating artificial intelligence, modelling, remote sensing, and interactive chatbots. These tools enhance situational awareness and improve the allocation of resources for humanitarian response partners by providing more accurate assessments of risk areas and maximising the number of people that EORE can reach. Many people have access to mobile technology and benefit from digital information, products and services. This makes it easy to share information about explosive ordnance risk and accidents. However, there is still a ‘digital gap’ and approaches must be designed in collaboration with community networks to adapt to local context and resources.

Risk education is crucial and rapidly deployable in challenging contexts like Gaza and the West Bank, especially amid funding challenges for clearance operations. We must work together to sustain these efforts. Thank you.

END