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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 5. Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance

Delivered by Mr. Dominique Burgeon, FAO

Geneva, 19 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,

The United Nations works collaboratively with States Parties, national authorities and NGOs to reduce the risks and impacts of explosive ordnance. In many contexts, the United Nations supports national mine action authorities in building capacity and enables them and others to operate safely and efficiently.

We note the primacy and the responsibility of national ownership. We encourage States to prioritize mine action in national development plans, budgets, peacebuilding and security sector reform initiatives. We also note the importance of providing necessary resources, appropriate legislative frameworks, and sustained political commitment to effectively implement

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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and coordinate nationally-led mine action efforts. The United Nations stands ready to assist States Parties.

An illustrative example of the support that the UN can provide is found in the Central African Republic, where the UNMAS team in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission - MINUSCA - is helping the country to set up its national mine action framework. The President has established a national authority to lead the response to mines and explosive remnants of war and a National Focal Point has been appointed. A roadmap for the creation of a National Mine Action Authority has been finalized, along with a draft decree directing its mandate, structure, and operations. The Central African Republic took part in the 28th Meeting of National Mine Action Directors in Geneva in April 2025 and submitted a Transparency Report for the first time since 2004, a crucial step towards compliance. Furthermore, the country has resumed participation in the APMBC meetings, with a presence at the intersessionals in June 2025. Welcome back. (*Check against attendance*)

Within the UN system the UN humanitarian, development, peace and security and human rights entities have committed to consider explosive ordnance risks in their assessments, plans, and budgets when their own objectives may be threatened. This will serve to ensure that sectors and entities that rely upon Mine Action to deliver their primary objectives include mine action activities and requirements from the outset, thus leading to improved coordination, cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

Delegates may also be aware of the Humanitarian Reset led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to improve the efficiency of humanitarian responses in the context of increased needs and reduced resources. Cooperation with and support to national governments and local partners forms a key tenet of this reform. UN Mine Action colleagues are closely involved in the process and are tracking how the Mine Action community can both support the reset, and reform to ensure that our own coordination and cooperation structures are optimised. The UN ensures



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effective coordination of emergency humanitarian responses, and through specialized agencies such as FAO, it also supports countries in making mine action a prelude to economic recovery by linking clearance efforts with the restoration of food security.

The UN is deeply concerned about growing funding shortfalls affecting countries facing explosive ordnance contamination, and the Mine Action Sector as a whole. In Afghanistan, mine action teams have been cut by one third in 2025 due to funding reductions. UN technical assistance supporting mine action coordination is on life support, with no quality assurance in the field and funding ending on 1 July 2025. In recent years UNMAS has been forced to close programmes in Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali due to lack of funding. A similar pattern persists for large Mine Action NGOs, with many having to cut programming due to significantly reduced resources.

Demonstrating an enhanced understanding of the relationship between antipersonnel mines and full enjoyment of human rights, with the Human Rights Council recently adopted its first ever resolution (58/22) on this issue and calling on all States, international and civil society organizations to strengthen mine action to promote and protect the effective enjoyment of all human rights. We look forward to supporting the develop of the Report called for by this resolution that will be submitted for the 62nd meeting of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, on behalf of the UN, I would like to express my deep gratitude to long-standing partners for their critical support to mine action.

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