

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session V. Capacity development: opportunities and impact

- Date and time: Friday, 27 May 2021, 2p.m. – 3p.m. (CEST)
- Chair: **H.E. Amb. Stefano Toscano**, Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Speakers: **Ms. Oksana Leshchenko**, Policy and Programme Advisor, UNDP
Mr. Valon Kumnova, Head, Mine Action Programmes, GICHD
Brig. Gen. Jihad Al Bechelany, Director, Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC)
Ms. Nguyen Thi Dieu Linh, Provincial Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) Vietnam
Mr. Christian Rydning, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN in Geneva

Introduction

Since the early humanitarian clearance efforts of 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, and significant technological advancements. Amidst this evolution, the sector's key concern with the development of adequate structures and capacities at the national level has remained constant. Today, as over three decades 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 action.

As the humanitarian and developmental impact of explosive ordnance contamination remains severe, and the landscape of contamination changes – geographically and technically – the need for strong and adequately equipped and resourced national capacities remains a priority. Where national programmes have been active for years, sometimes decades, this often means ensuring that capacities evolve with the changing nature and extend of specific needs, that relevant skills are maintained and transferred and that adequate financial resources continue to be mobilized.

Purpose of the Session

This panel will take a broad look at capacity development, offering observations and reflections on what capacity-development means, why it is important and how it can be/has been implemented for effective and sustainable results. Through an interactive discussion involving representatives of national authorities, international organizations, donor countries and operators, the panel will

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address ways in which capacity development can be tailored to specific national contexts and needs; examine the underlying conditions that are necessary for capacity development to be successful; suggest ways to measure impacts and progress; and provide insights on ensuring robust exist strategies that allow national institutions to maintain critical capacities and skills to address outstanding challenges.

Format for the Plenary: (60 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	05 minutes
Interactive discussion with panelists	35 minutes
Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair	05 minutes

Guiding Questions

- After more than two decades of capacity development efforts, what does it mean to develop/reinforce capacity and how can we best ensure that it responds to outstanding challenges?
- Has the sector focused on strengthening capacity in all relevant sectors of mine action, or are there still gaps?
- What are the conditions that enable successful capacity development?
- How do we measure progress and effectiveness in capacity development?
- How do we ensure that the international donor community continues to invest adequate resources in capacity development?