



## Information Note

### UNMAS LAUNCHES THE NATIONAL LANDMINE CONTAMINATION SURVEY REPORT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

*Kinshasa, 02 April 2014*

On 8 December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly declared that April 4<sup>th</sup> of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

It called for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the civilian population, or an impediment to social and economic development at the national and local levels.

This year the theme of April 4<sup>th</sup> is promoting the work of women in mine action. The efforts of women make mine action work more efficient and effective. Women must be empowered in all societies to be a part of important activities, including at all stages of mine action: from surveying mined areas, to deciding where to begin clearance, to conducting mine risk education and post-clearance development initiatives.

In his message for the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, 4 April 2014, the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated;

*"The United Nations has a proud record of helping millions of people in mine-affected countries. On this International Day, let us resolve to mobilize the resources, partners and resolve we need to further advance our vision of a planet free from mines."*

The Congolese Centre for Mine Action and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are organizing the celebration of this special day on 4 April 2014 in Goma, North Kivu. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in Eastern DRC - General Abdallah Wafy will represent the United Nations at this event, and in addition it is expected that the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and the Governor of North Kivu will be attending. Taking place at the MONUSCO Support East Bravo site, the event will include a demonstration of mine action activities from mine action partners, including the destruction of small arms and light weapons.

***For further information please contact:***

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