

Statement on behalf of the Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG)

NDM Plenary Session 6. Inclusion and Diversity: Racial Equity in Mine Action

This statement is on behalf of the Gender and Diversity Working Group, currently co-chaired by Mine Action Review and Humanity and Inclusion, and which also includes Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM), DanChurchAid, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Disarmament (GICHD), The HALO Trust, International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC), Mines Action Canada (MAG), Mines Advisory Group (MAC), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), and Human Security Network in Latin America and the Caribbean (SEHLAC).

On behalf of the Gender and Diversity Working Group, we would like to thank UNMAS and the panellists for starting the discussion on racial equity in mine action. Race is a key aspect of diversity and inclusion, which – like gender – should be considered both in organisational structures and operational approaches. We are very pleased to see this conversation starting. We welcome the different perspectives that today's panel and global engagement on race and discrimination bring to diversity and inclusion conversations in mine action. And we hope it is a step towards considering approaches that address the intersection of race/gender/ability/ethnicity/religion and other diversity factors going forward.

While we have come a long way in mainstreaming gender in the mine action sector, we still have a lot of work to do. That being said, work to integrate race and other diversity factors in mine action can draw lessons learned from the efforts to mainstream gender so far. Today's speakers have presented much food for thought and the Gender and Diversity Working Group is keen to move this conversation forward.

Thank you.