**BACKGROUND NOTE**

**Plenary Session 5: “Preventing Humanitarian Crises, Building Peace”**

Date and time: 15:00 to 16:15, Thursday 7 February 2019

Chair: **Ms. Anke Reiffenstuel**, Head of Division of Humanitarian Assistance and Operations, Federal Republic of Germany

Speakers: **Ambassador Adriana del Rosario Mendoza Agudelo**, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Mr. Yves Daccord**, Director-General, International Committee of the Red Cross

**Mr. Francois Grignon**, Deputy Director, Eastern Africa Division, DPPA/DPO, United Nations

Location:  Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Introduction**

Conflict is a leading cause of humanitarian crises in today’s world. Mine action has a critical role to play, both in preventing such crises and in building sustainable peace in the aftermath of conflict.

**Purpose of the Session**

The purpose of this session is to explore the role that mine action can play both in the prevention of humanitarian crises caused by conflict and in supporting the establishment of sustainable peace in the aftermath of conflict. This will include highlighting the Secretary-General’s prevention agenda and the role of mine action in preventive diplomacy through advocacy for adherence to international humanitarian law. In addition, the session will share good policy and practice in building peace through mine action, from the perspective of humanitarian actors and a national mine action authority.

**Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)**

Introductory remarks by Chair 10 minutes

Presentation by Mr. Yves Daccord 15 minutes

Presentation by Mr. Francois Grignon 15 minutes

Presentation by Representative of Descontamina Colombia 15 minutes

Discussion and Q & A 15 minutes

Closing remarks by Chair 05 minutes

**Food for Thought:**

* How do you think mine action in your context contributes to preventing humanitarian crises and/ or building peace?
* Are there ways in which a peace building approach can improve humanitarian mine action outcomes?
* Are there creative ways that mine action could be integrated into peace building processes in your context?