**BACKGROUND NOTE**

**Plenary Session 1: “Mine Action Vision: Forging the Future Together”**

Date and time: 11:45am-1pm, Tuesday 5 February 2019

Chair : **Ms. Agnès Marcaillou**, Director, UNMAS

Speakers: **Ambassador Walter Stevens**, Head of EU Delegation in Geneva

 **Ms. Sachi Claringbould**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Kingdom of the Netherlands

 **Brig. Gen. Ziad Nasr**, Director, Lebanon Mine Action Centre

 **Colonel Ncube Mkhulili Bhika**, Director, Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Introduction**

In December 2018, the United Nations finalized its next multi-year mine action strategy, following extensive consultations amongst a wide range of mine action stakeholders. Feedback from those consultations confirmed a close alignment of UN priorities for the next years with those of many Member States and national authorities. The new UN Strategy also represents a comprehensive and coherent system-wide approach to mine action with linkages to humanitarian responses, peace and security, and sustainable development. This plenary will introduce and launch the United Nations Mine Action Strategy (2019-2023), while inviting Member States and National Authorities to share best practices and perspectives from developing their own strategies.

**Purpose of the Session**

The purpose of this session is to share best practice and lessons learned from the development and implementation of new Strategies and to foster greater partnership within the sector by identifying shared visions and goals.

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

Introductory remarks by Chair 10 minutes

Presentation by Ambassador Stevens 10 minutes

Presentation by Ms. Claringbould 10 minutes

Presentation by Brig. Gen. Nasr 10 minutes

Presentation by Col. Bhika 10 minutes

Discussion and Q & A 20 minutes

Closing remarks by Chair 5 minutes

**Food for Thought:**

* What has your experience been of developing and implementing mine action strategies?
* How can consulting broadly within, and beyond, the mine action sector, add value to Strategy development?
* How can the mine action sector strengthen development of shared approaches and shared vision?