**BACKGROUND NOTE**

**Plenary Session 7: “Mitigating New Threats - Bridging the Gaps”**

Date and time: 11:45 to 12:45, Friday 8 February 2019

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

Speakers: **Ambassador Yann Hwang**, Permanent Mission of France to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

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

**Mr. Bryan Sand**, IED Threat Mitigation Advisor, UNMAS

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Introduction**

Generating a safe, effective and efficient response to the contamination and threat posed by IEDs requires that organizations have the most relevant information on the threat and the technology and equipment available to address that threat. UNMAS proposes to develop an essential information hub, to the benefit of the entire sector, which brings together this information in one central location at the United Nations.

Building partnerships with Member States, NGOs, industry and research to generate the information required for informed responses – UNMAS will coordinate and consolidate the inputs into a central database available for all.

To this end, the Dutch government have graciously provided the foundation for such a database which they developed nationally. They will discuss how, together, we can leverage existing national knowledge of threats, technology and equipment to better inform solutions for all.

The French, as chairs of the Expert Panel on IEDs, are well placed to discuss the commonality of the threat posed by IEDs to all – civilians, affected governments, NGOs and the UN. We are all subject to the threats posed by IEDs. Only by bringing all these communities together can we generate a cohesive response.

UNMAS, as the coordinator of the UN System on explosive threats is uniquely positioned to be the repository of this information. As the nexus of the UN’s response to IEDs and the Chair of the IMAS review board we see the need for greater common resources.

**Purpose of the Session**

The expected outcome is to generate buy-in from Member States, NGOs and Industry to build the database with available tools, knowledge and understanding.

**Format for the Plenary: (60 minutes)**

Introductory remarks by Chair 05 minutes

Presentation by Ambassador Hwang 15 minutes

Presentation by Ms. Claringbould 15 minutes

Presentation by UNMAS 15 minutes

Discussion and Q & A 10 minutes

Closing remarks by the Chair 05 minutes

**Food for Thought:**

* How can we share information about threats in a way that informs responses but does not divulge sensitive national or organizational operations?
* How can we generate solutions as a community if we do not identify the threats and the current gaps in our responses?