

## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

### **Plenary Session II. Mine Action for People: Dimensions of Diversity**

Date and time: Tuesday, 11 February 2020, 3:00p.m. – 4:15p.m.

Chair: **Ambassador Osman Abu Fatima**, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of Sudan to UNOG

Speakers: **Mr. Dahir Abdurrahman Abdulle**, Director General, Somalia Explosive Management Authority, Somalia  
**Mr. Habibulhaq Javed**, Head of Office, UNMAS Syria  
**Ms. Fadwa Benbarek**, Head of Programme Office, UNMAS Iraq  
**Ms. Natalia Morales Campillo**, Gender Coordinator, Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Colombia

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

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### **Introduction**

Various dimensions of diversity, including disability, sex, and age are important to mine action planning, in line with the Secretary-General's priorities and the United Nations Mine Action Strategy, as well as the Oslo Action Plan of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The Cross-cutting Outcome 2 of the UN Mine Action Strategy states that assistance should address specific gender and age needs and requirements to be inclusive of all members of society, facilitating the realization of the UN vision of leaving no one behind. The mainstreaming of the perspectives of different groups in mine action programming fosters the full and equal participation of women, young people and persons with disabilities both as beneficiaries of and key stakeholders in the planning and implementation of mine action operations.

Mine action leadership must meaningfully include and consider inputs from diverse groups to identify and address risks and needs in a comprehensive manner. Responsive approaches aim to identify the different lived experiences, voices and needs of women, youth and victims of explosive ordnance, and to respond to those differences through targeted programming that is capable of rectifying inequality and addressing needs. Improved knowledge and capacity combined with the development of diversity responsive policies and procedures, will ensure effective and sustainable long term mine action practices, reduce vulnerabilities associated with diversity, and holistically address social disadvantages and discriminations.

### **Purpose of the Session**

Diverse groups - including women, victims and youth, among many other groups - share experiences of an interrelated nature that can result in social marginalization and exclusion. True inclusion of diversity is critical to developing mine action programming that effectively serves the needs of people. Inclusion in mine action also contributes to addressing the factors of social exclusion in promoting transformative change by creating opportunities for diverse groups to contribute to rebuilding communities and promoting lasting peace.

This session will explore how the mine action sector works to ensure that diversity considerations are better mainstreamed into mine action programming as a matter of quality

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programming to enhance the effectiveness of the different pillars of mine action, so that all groups have access to the support and assistance they need.

The panellists will share experiences on facilitating the active and meaningful participation of diverse groups, including victims, women and youth in humanitarian mine action, and its contribution to an inclusive society. The session will also focus on the need to include different voices in the development of programming and decision-making with regard to mine action activities. Issues of internal and external mainstreaming, empowerment, leadership and budgeting will also be discussed.

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

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| Introductory remarks by Chair                       | 10 minutes |
| Presentation by DG SEMA                             | 10 minutes |
| Video Risk Education in Syria                       | 05 minutes |
| Presentation by UNMAS Iraq                          | 10 minutes |
| Presentation by Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines | 10 minutes |
| Discussion and Q & A                                | 15 minutes |
| Closing remarks by the Chair                        | 05 minutes |

### **Food for Thought:**

- What does a diversity-sensitive mine action programme include? How should the needs, perspectives and contributions of all groups - including victims, youth and women - be taken into account from planning to implementation stages of mine action activities, and what is the extent of its impact?
- What does meaningful participation of victims, women and youth entail and how can it be measured?
- How can the mainstreaming of diversity into the management and monitoring of mine action operations be improved?
- In which ways can the sustainability of diversity and equality knowledge mainstreaming into planning processes (standards, system, SOPs) be ensured?