

**BACKGROUND NOTE**  
**Plenary III. Regional Approaches to Mine Action**

Date and time: 10:00pm – 11:15pm, Thursday, 13 February 2020

Chair: **Ambassador Stefano Toscano**, Director, GICHD

Speakers: **Ms. Martha Hurtado**, Deputy Commissioner of the Mine Action Programme, High Commissioner for Peace, Colombia  
**Mr. Khalid Rashad Jabbar**, Director General, Directorate for Mine Action, Iraq  
**Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda**, Director, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre  
**Ms. Dwi Prameswari**, Senior Technical Officer, ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center  
**Mr. Djibrine Brahim**, Coordinator, Haut Commissariat National au Déminage, Chad

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

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**Introduction**

Regional approaches to mine action, which have been fostered for many years, are valued by national mine action authorities as a way to learn and benefit from the experiences of countries with geographical, linguistic or other commonalities. This Plenary will explore the South-South assistance and cooperation within and among five regions, and identify existing and potential regional interactions to enhance and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action.

In preparation for this plenary, regional groups will have convened national representatives and other key mine action stakeholders in groups based on geographical and linguistic proximity of national mine action programmes (taking place on Wednesday 12 February 10:00-11:15). The participants to each regional breakout group will discuss pertinent issues and share good practices from their national experience using a common language where applicable. The groups will report back in this Plenary on the outcomes of the discussions from the previous day with a focus on current trends and challenges in mine action, while highlighting benefits identified with regional approaches and any ideas or commitments discussed.

**Purpose of the Session**

The following five regional breakout groups will report on their discussion to the Plenary III:

- Arabic-speaking Group for Middle East and North Africa countries chaired by Mr. Khalid Rashad Jabbar, Director, Directorate for Mine Action, Iraq
- English-speaking Group for South East Asia and Pacific countries chaired Ms. Dwi Prameswari, Senior Technical Officer, ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center
- French-speaking Group for African countries chaired by Mr. Djibrine Brahim, Haut Commissariat National au Déminage, Chad
- Russian-speaking Group for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries chaired by Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre

## 23 NDM-UN Plenary Background Note

- Spanish-speaking Group for Latin America chaired by Ms. Martha Hurtado, Deputy Commissioner of the Mine Action Programme, High Commissioner of Peace, Colombia

The objective of regional breakout groups is to identify common challenges and potentially share solutions to current issues in respective countries, with a regional perspective. The groups will discuss the opportunities that can and do arise from South-South cooperation and how each national mine action programme could benefit from learning from others. The discussions will focus on a set of general questions pertinent to any mine action programme and then discuss the regional particularities.

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

Introductory remarks by Chair	5 minutes
Presentations by Regional Breakout Groups Chairs	40 minutes (8 min. each)
Discussion and Q & A	25 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair	5 minutes

### **Food for Thought:**

Over the years, cooperation within and among affected countries has proven to be effective in addressing common issues and challenges. Sharing expertise, skills, and good practices enhances the performance of programmes and fosters national ownership by placing national and local authorities at the forefront of such cooperation.

South-south or triangular cooperation is a way to turn affected countries into a source of expertise made available to countries confronted with similar contexts and challenges. Exchange programmes between affected countries shall be promoted. There is in addition a growing need to harness the capacity of countries and to understand exchanges among countries. The commitment of national mine action authorities is essential in furthering such regional cooperation.

The plenary will look at these specific questions:

- What are the specific challenges each regional group identified?
- How are these challenges addressed?
- Have good practices been identified during the group discussion? What are the solutions and commitments identified by each of the groups, both at the national and regional levels? How can the sharing or exchange of knowledge and experiences, human resources, technical assistance and equipment be promoted?