

BACKGROUND NOTE

Plenary Session VII. Improvised Explosive Devices: Connecting Actors for Solutions

Date and time: Friday, 14 February 2020, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Chair: **Ambassador Dieudonné W. Désiré Sougouri**, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to UNOG

Speakers: **Ms. Diana Castillo**, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Colombia to UNOG and Co-coordinator of the IED Group of Experts of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Colombia
Mr. Alexander Riebl, IED Threat Mitigation Advisor, UNMAS
Ms. Nora Achkar, Humanitarian Project Manager, UNMAS Mali
Mr. Himayu Shiotani, Programme Head, Conventional Arms Programme, UNIDIR

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Introduction

Strengthened collaboration and the sharing of information between the various actors of the IED sector, including humanitarian, private sector, industry, military and academic representatives can enhance solutions in IED Threat Mitigation. Partnerships can contribute to a common understanding of threats, building on lessons learned from various actors in areas such as types of incidents, impact of incidents on civilians, prevailing trends, the design of devices and initiation mechanisms, specific equipment needs, and available training and technologies for safe removal. The sharing of information and increased dialogue can be key to operational effectiveness in an IED threat environment, and can better protect lives and infrastructure.

Purpose of the Session

This plenary will discuss how partnerships among various stakeholders can enhance humanitarian responses in order to protect civilians, ensure that mine actors are equipped and trained to safely mitigate threats, and promote the development of technological solutions. The session will discuss the importance of institutional arrangements in fostering information sharing within national agencies to contribute to effective and coherent national responses to IED threats, which can draw from the lessons learned, expertise and capabilities of other agencies. The sharing of information and knowledge between mine action and other humanitarian actors is critical to better protection of civilians through a common understanding of the threat posed and the impact on communities and infrastructure.

The discussion will also look at the contribution of the private sector to IED threat mitigation responses through technologies, and the role of research in promoting innovations and in contributing to a shared analysis of the national and regional impact of IED threats, trends on IED incidents, origin of components, transfer of knowledge, and others. Ultimately, this

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plenary seeks to demonstrate the value in IED-related partnerships and collaboration, while exploring opportunities for new engagement and interaction between stakeholders across all sectors.

Format for the Plenary: (60 minutes)

Introductory remarks by Chair	8 minutes
Presentation by Colombia	8 minutes
Presentation by IED TMA	8 minutes
Presentation by UNMAS Mali	8 minutes
Presentation by UNIDIR	8 minutes
Discussion and Q & A	15 minutes
Closing remarks by the Chair	05 minutes

Food for Thought:

- How is the sharing of mine action information on IEDs crucial in adjusting humanitarian responses?
- How can public-private partnerships work in the area of IED threat mitigation; which information can be shared with which actors?
- How can lessons learned from IED operating environments and incidents be institutionalized and capitalized on?
- How can information sharing and coordination efforts within government and among national agencies/departments be enhanced?
- How can partnerships between mine action practitioners, private sector and academic researchers add value?