



**United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action**  
**Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**  
**(26-30 November 2018)**

**General Exchange of Views**

Madam President<sup>1</sup>,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your leadership as President of the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action<sup>2</sup>, I have the pleasure to announce that the United Nations will adopt its Strategy on Mine Action for the period 2019-2023 in the coming days.

This new strategy is the result of months of intense work by the UN system, and we are grateful for the substantive contributions and support received by all partners. The United Nations warmly thanks States, NGOs, ICRC, implementing partners and civil society for their engagement.

The 2019-2023 United Nations Strategy addresses the recent changes in the operating contexts, and orientates UN engagement in mine action on the basis of a theory of change that defines core priorities for achieving global impact in reducing the threat of explosive devices. The overarching goal of the new Strategy is to contribute to a world free from the threat of explosive

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<sup>1</sup> H.E. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations.

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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devices by protecting and assisting individuals and communities through the establishment of safe environments conducive to recovery, sustainable peace and development.

Let me highlight the main changes.

*Inclusion in broader responses*

The contamination from anti-personnel mines and other explosive devices poses many challenges: maiming and killing as well as preventing the safe passage of humanitarian convoys, the reconstruction of critical infrastructure, the restoration of services, and the return to livelihoods. The new UN Strategy clearly articulates the enabling role of UN mine action as part of humanitarian, peace and development responses and aligns closely with UN reform processes. This also includes close alignment with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

*Responsiveness to context*

Whilst the mine action community is adapting to a new operational reality, the UN Strategy reflects and addresses contemporary trends and challenges in mine, ERW, and IED threat mitigation, with strict respect of the principles which guide humanitarian assistance, engagement in peace and security settings. This includes contamination in urban areas and the proliferation of IEDs as well as the risk posed by unsecured weapons and ammunition stockpiles. The United Nations will continue its engagement to address ‘old’ and recent contamination and support treaty implementation.

*Priority on Victim Assistance*

The 2019-2023 UN Strategy on Mine Action has a strong emphasis on victims, reflecting a consensus that the UN must do more to mobilize member states, civil society organizations and



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its own resources. The Strategy strengthens UN advocacy and coordination for funding and programming to meet the specific requirements of, and sustainable support to survivors, affected family members and communities, consistent with the UN global commitment captured in the 2030 Agenda to ‘leave no one behind’.

*Gender, age and diversity, a cross cutting objective*

The new United Nations Strategy stresses the importance of a gender, age-sensitive and inclusive approach. The participation of women and youth has been proven to strengthen and sustain peace processes; gender and age-sensitive analysis is essential to identify priorities effectively. In addition, the United Nations, in collaboration with our long-term partner the Gender and Mine Action Programme, is updating the United Nations Gender Guidelines on Mine Action. The revised guidelines will reflect changes in operating contexts and lessons learned since the Guidelines were published in 2010.

*Strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism*

The United Nations stands strongly committed to support the efforts of States Parties in the implementation of the APMBC, and will follow a rigorous-systematic monitoring and evaluation approach to regularly review and report on progress. The **analytical and accountable role of the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism** is being strengthened to build a body of quantitative and qualitative evidence to demonstrate the UN contribution to mine action. This strong monitoring and evaluation capacity will require financial support; therefore, we will engage with countries in a position to support this transparency and accountability framework.

I thank you for your attention.