

Programme

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

09:00 - 10:00

Opening Session



Room: D

Speakers:

- Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix – United Nations Under Secretary General for Peace
- Ambassador Tobias Privitelli – GICHD Director
- Ms. Kazumi Ogawa – UNMAS Director
- Ms. Maryam Bukar Hassan – UN Peace Advocate

10:00 - 11:15

Plenary 1. Enabled Sectors - Mine Action as a Foundation for Sustainable Development



Room: D

This plenary will demonstrate to the sector at large how mine action – anchored in national ownership – forms a critical backbone for sustainable development processes. It will showcase outcomes beyond clearance, such as restored agricultural production, access to essential services, building community resilience and renewed economic activity. This plenary will promote cross-sectoral partnerships and reinforce the message that mine action is a strategic investment in stability and human development, reinforcing the meeting theme of ‘one humanity’.

Moderator:

- Ms. Agi Veres, UNDP Crisis Bureau Deputy Director and head of UNDP Geneva Office

Speakers:

- Colonel Cletus Maregere, Director, Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre
- Mr. Clifford Tunuki, Director Police EOD Department, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
- Mr. Ishii Yoshizane, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva
- Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva

- Dr. Stacey Pizzino, University of Queensland

11:30 - 12:30

SIDE EVENTS

From Policy to Practice: Lessons from Implementing Commitments under the Convention on Cluster Munitions

 Room: B

This side event explores how States and operators translate cluster munition commitments into practical action. It highlights Lao PDR's national experience, regional operational perspectives, and system-wide insights to identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The session aims to inform the next Action Plan while engaging mine action directors, UN advisers, operators, donors, and other stakeholders in a practitioner-focused discussion.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

From Crisis to Recovery: Strengthening Victim Assistance for Survivors of Explosive Weapons

 Room: C

Survivors of explosive weapons face predictable and long-term harm, yet victim assistance systems often struggle to respond during crises. Drawing lessons from Gaza, Libya, and Ukraine, this side event will explore how victim assistance operates across different stages of conflict and recovery. The side event aims to promote integrated, survivor-centred approaches linking emergency response with long-term inclusion, state, and international commitments. It will engage donors, States, and UN coordination actors working on protection and humanitarian mine action.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- The Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Ukraine

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) occupied Palestinian territory
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Libya

Protecting Civilians in Libya: The Skirat Explosion Response, Bridging Information and Field Operations

 Room: E

This event will show how information management and operations work together to reduce explosive risks and protect civilians in Libya. It will draw on the response to the unplanned explosion at Skirat in Misrata, highlighting how LibMAC swiftly mobilized national and international NGOs for clearance and risk education. The event will also show how IMSMA supports timely, coordinated response through data collection, analysis and tasking in support of stabilization and conflict prevention.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Libyan Peace Organization (LPO)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- The HALO Trust

Integrated, Environmentally Responsible Mine Action and Ammunition Management: Türkiye's National Model for One Humanity

 Room: F

This side event presents an integrated approach to mine action and ammunition management, combining safety, environmental responsibility, and innovation. It will showcase national capabilities in safe modular storage, inspection and life-cycle management, environmentally responsible disposal, and mechanical mine clearance. The session aims to promote international cooperation and share best practices. It targets States Parties, international organizations, donors, and technical experts working in humanitarian mine action and ammunition management.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Defense (MoND)
- Turkish Permanent Mission to UNOG
- Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC)

- ASFAT – Military Factory and Shipyard Management Inc.

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch break

13:30 - 14:30

SIDE EVENTS

From Hazard to Human Outcomes: Ukraine’s Explainable, Data-Driven Prioritization with “Ground Rehabilitation through Innovation Technologies” (GRIT)

 Room: B

This session will demonstrate to the sector at large how mine action in Ukraine – under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy – has created a dynamic environment to be able to move toward data-driven decision-making in mine action. Allowing layers of data to be drawn upon to identify expected outcomes prior to tasking instructions being issued. It will showcase layers of data used and outcomes beyond clearance, such as restored agricultural production, access to essential services, building community resilience and renewed economic activity. This side event will promote cross-sectoral partnerships and reinforce the message that mine action is a strategic investment in stability and human development, reinforcing the meeting theme of ‘one humanity’.

Participating organizations 

- Ministry of Economy, Ukraine
- Resident Coordinator's Office, United Nations, Ukraine
- UNDP
- GRIT Team

Investing in Safe Land: Pathways to Support Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa

 Room: C

Landmine and explosive ordnance contamination in the Horn of Africa blocks access to grazing land, farmland, water, and trade routes, deepening food insecurity and undermining livelihoods. This session will share practical evidence on how humanitarian mine action can restore safe land for productive use and support community-led recovery. It will bring

together donors, national authorities, operators, and implementing partners interested in linking mine action more effectively with livelihoods, food security, and climate resilience.

Participating organizations 

- The HALO Trust
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Global Progress in Landmine and Cluster Munition Clearance and Lessons in Effective Coordination from Lao PDR and Lebanon

 Room: E

Participants will gain a clear, evidence-based overview of global progress and challenges in the survey and clearance of anti-personnel mines and cluster munition remnants, including the current status of APMBC Article 5 and CCM Article 4 implementation. In addition, representatives will highlight practical lessons from effective national coordination platforms in Lao PDR and Lebanon, offering transferable insights to support stronger coordination and implementation in other affected States. The Netherlands will contribute perspectives as both a donor and CCM Coordinator for International Cooperation and Assistance.

Participating Member States and Organizations 

- Lao PDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC)
- Mine Action Review (organizer)

Beyond Compliance: Discussing the Impact of Victim Assistance Standards on Survivors Access to Services

 Room: F

Five years after the adoption of the international standard on victim assistance (IMAS 13.10), this session evaluates their practical application in conflict affected states like Ukraine, Colombia, Palestine, Senegal and Syria. The event aims to identify field-level barriers and share best practices in IMAS 13.10 operationalization. At the same time, it looks to have an open conversation about how the application of this norm has helped improve data collection, mapping of services and survivors' access to services. We welcome national authorities, mine action operators, donors, and survivor organizations who want to have a deeper view of how victim assistance standards have been operationalized globally.

Participating Member States and organizations

- Colombia Office of The Peace Commissioner - Mine Action Group
- Danish Refugee Council
- Humanity & Inclusion
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

14:30 - 15:00

Coffee break

15:00 - 16:15

Plenary 2. Emergency Risk Education During and After Conflict: Evidence, Innovations, and What Works

 Room: D

This session will take stock of proven methods and initiatives aiming at better protecting communities through effective, scalable risk education approaches across conflict phases. The session will highlight and unpack new practices that combine explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP). Speakers from affected countries and the international community will be invited to discuss their approaches to emergency risk education in and beyond mine action, and address the principles and parameters for national authorities and operators to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate emergency risk education.

Moderator:

- Ms. Maryam Bukar Hassan / UN Global Advocate for Peace

Speakers:

- Mr. Khalid Hamdan, General Director, Sudan National Mine Action Centre
- Ms. Héloïse Pihery, Global EORE Specialist, Humanity & Inclusion
- Ms. Safa Alkahaf, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Syria
- Mr. Colin Bent, Global Special Advisor, CPP, Norwegian People's Aid


16:30 - 17:30

SIDE EVENTS

Mine Action and Climate Responsibility: Practical Steps to Measure and Reduce Impact

 Room: B

Mine action operations carry a significant but often poorly understood environmental footprint. This session explores how carbon measurement helps organizations identify where emissions come from and what can realistically be reduced without undermining delivery. It aims to share practical insights, common challenges, and early lessons from across the sector. Target audience: national mine action authorities, operational NGOs, donors, and partners working on policy, operations, and sustainability.

Participating organizations 

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- (others to be confirmed)

Mine Action as a Peace Building Tool: The Colombian Transitional-Restorative Approach

 Room: C

This event will discuss the progress and challenges of implementing restorative humanitarian mine action (HMA) measures within transitional justice, focusing on the Colombian experience. By addressing land contamination as a conflict-related harm, it will highlight how a One Humanity approach—grounded in collective responsibility and people-centred action—can strengthen coordination and ensure that mine action pillars effectively restore safety and agency to victims and affected communities, contributing to a sustainable recovery in EO-affected territories.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- Colombia Office Of The Peace Commissioner Counselor - Mine Action Group
- Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SPJ), Colombia
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- InterPeace

Partnering for Impact: Combining Global Tools with Local Adaptations to Reach Explosive Ordnance Impacted Communities

 Room: E

This side event explores how mine action partners working with UNOPS have creatively expanded their support to affected communities. CENSCOPE, a local humanitarian grantee delivering risk education is operationalizing IMAS in northern Nigeria; international NGO the Danish Refugee Council is working alongside local NGOs to clear Khartoum neighbourhoods, and international commercial implementor SafeLane Global has re-engineered its clearance capacity in South Sudan to address to the broad range of South Sudan's explosive hazards.

Participating organizations

- Centre for Social Cohesion Peace and Empowerment (CENSCOPE)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- SafeLane Global
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

From Lausanne to Vientiane: Strengthening Gender Considerations and Diversity of Populations in the Cluster Munitions Convention

 Room: F

In the latest Action Plan of the Cluster Munitions Convention, adopted in Lausanne, States Parties committed to practical steps that integrate gender perspectives and the diversity of populations into all aspects of mine action and programming. As the Action Plan enters its final year of implementation, this event will take stock of progress and discuss ideas to inform the next Action Plan, to be adopted by the Third Review Conference of the CCM, in Vientiane.

Participating Member States and organizations

- Austria
- Cameroon
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

18:00 - 19:30 Reception


 Conference Centre Restaurant

A reception for all participants will be held at the close of the first day of NDM-UN29. Drinks and light refreshments will be served.

- Speaker: H.E. Mr. Julien Thöni - Ambassador Disarmament and Multilateral Affairs, Deputy Permanent Representative, Switzerland

21:00 - 22:30

Jet D'eau illumination

 Geneva Lake

The iconic Geneva Jet D'eau will be illuminated from dusk in the colours of the NDM-UN29.



THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026

09:00 - 10:00

SIDE EVENTS

Localizing Gender in Humanitarian Mine Action: Sharing Ukraine's Experience of Empowering Women at the Frontline in Humanitarian Mine Action



Room: B

From the onset of the war to response and recovery. Gender and women's empowerment should be at the centre of all actions. Integrating women's empowerment into locally led humanitarian mine action is sustainable and efficient. Sharing these inclusive practical practices enhances efficiency and improves outcomes in HMA for recovery and peacebuilding in crisis- or war-affected countries.

Participating Member States and organizations



- Ministry of Economy, Environment, and Agriculture of Ukraine
- Ministry of Defense of Ukraine
- UN Women
- NGO Girls
- Croatian Center for Testing, Development and Training
- Geneva International Center of Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Making Localization Work: Pathways to Sustainable Nationally Led Mine Action



Room: C

Localisation is central to achieving sustainable, nationally led mine action, yet its meaning and approach remain inconsistent across the sector. This session aims to discuss approaches to localisation; share practical experiences from donors, national authorities, national NGOs, and international operators; and explore pathways that strengthen national ownership, promote local leadership, and ensure sustainable investment. It seeks to engage donors, affected states, national authorities, and local and international practitioners committed to strengthening effective, sustainable mine action.

Participating Member States and organizations



- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia

- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Ukrainian Deminers Association (UDA)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Managing Explosive Hazards in Cities - Lessons from Sudan, Gaza, Syria and Iraq

 Room: E

What does it take to make cities safe again after conflict? Explosive hazards in homes, streets and critical infrastructure are blocking returns, humanitarian access and recovery. This session will explore how mine action can unlock progress, drawing on Sudan, Gaza, Syria and Iraq. It will highlight practical lessons and priority actions for national authorities, operators and donors working to link mine action with safe returns, service restoration and reconstruction.


Participating Member States and organizations 

- National Mine Action Authorities of Sudan
- Directorate of Mine Action, Iraq
- UNMAS (Sudan, oPt, Syria and Iraq)

Cultural Heritage Protection in Mine Action

 Room: F

Mine Action operators often work around some of the world's most significant sites. While the removal of landmines and ordnance delivers the first phase of recovery, returning communities seek solace in cultural familiarity. This session will discuss the role that mine action plays in the protection of cultural heritage and seek to open a discussion on the simple measures required to protect cultural heritage in operations and support the sector's intent to build more stable and resilient communities.

Participating organizations 

- Blue Shield International (Organizer)
- UNESCO
- The HALO Trust

10:15 - 11:30

Plenary 3. From Standard to Practice: Implementing the New IMAS Land Release Framework



Room: D

Land release is central to the effectiveness, credibility and sustainability of mine action, influencing how contamination is understood, how resources are prioritized and how land is safely returned to communities. This plenary will consider the strategic role of land release through the lens of revised IMAS 07.11, and explore how standards, evidence, technology and financing can strengthen national ownership and improve programme outcomes.

Moderator:

- Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Speakers:

- Mr. Fadi Alsaleh, Director, Syria Mine Action Centre (TBC)
- Ms. Angela De Santis, Deputy Head of Operations, Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD)
- Mr. James Cowan, CEO, The HALO Trust
- Mr. Armen Harutyunyan, Head of Research, Innovation, Standards, and Operations, GICHD
- Mr. Rabie Al Jawashi Program Manager / Founder, Free Fields Libya

11:45 - 12:45

SIDE EVENTS

Syria One Year On: Addressing Explosive Ordnance Contamination in a Changing Context — Progress and Priorities



Room: B

One year after major shifts in Syria's operational context, explosive ordnance contamination continues to pose a widespread threat to civilians and to safe returns, livelihoods and recovery. This session will reflect on progress achieved, highlight remaining challenges, and explore priorities for scaling mine action.

Bringing together national and operational perspectives, it will engage donors, policymakers and humanitarian actors on how to sustain and strengthen the response.


Participating Member States and organizations 

- Syria National Mine Action Centre
- Syria Mine Action Area of Responsibility
- DanChurch Aid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- ITF Enhancing Human Security M
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- The HALO Trust
- ReachOut
- Roj Mine Control Organisation
- SafeLand Organisation
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Evidence, Guidance, and Action: Concrete Steps Toward Advancing Risk Education Across the Development-Emergency Spectrum

 Room: C

The side event showcases initiatives aimed at strengthening the evidence, legal framework, standardization and improvement of EORE and CPP across the emergency-development spectrum, to enhance effectiveness and accountability. It will present recent initiatives aiming to strengthen collective capacity and innovative approaches, including UNDP's SBC research on EORE and landmine victims, HI's report on CPP/EORE in EWIPA settings, the Early Response Network for EORE/ CPP (ERNE), and the Global Emergency Risk Education Task Team.

Participating organizations 

- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group
- UNICEF
- UNDP
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Humanity and Inclusion (HI)

Justifying and Embedding Environmental Responsibility and Long-Term Climate Considerations Into Mine Action Programmes

 Room: E

This side event will provide evidence and demonstrate to national authorities and mine action operators the importance of embedding environmental responsibility and climate-responsive approaches into mine action programmes. It aims to bridge the gap between conjecture, policy and practice by sharing research results, subsequent practical entry points and examples of good practice for implementing sustainable, relevant and impactful mine action programmes.

Participating organizations 

- University of Queensland:
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA)
- The HALO Trust
- The Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS)

Stories of Resilience - Ukraine

 Room: F

Places, people and results in the spotlight rather than technical aspects of mine action. Provides an insight into the life and struggles of rural communities. Links clearance to recovery, telling the stories and hearing the voices of rural households and small-scale farmers through immersive video clips of mine action successes. Reviews rural community engagement and livelihood, production, and food security results through activities of the United Nations, civil society, and state implementing arms of Ukraine.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CHD)
- Ukraine Demining Association (UDA)

12:45 - 13:45

Lunch break

13:45 - 15:00

Plenary 4. Donor Dialogue (to be confirmed)

 Room: D

15:00 - 15:15

Coffee Break

15:15 - 16:30

WORKSHOPS

The NDM-UN29 introduces a new element to the programme. Four interactive workshop-style dialogues will take place designed for National Mine Action Directors and technical experts. These sessions will focus on practical topics, hands-on exercises, available tools, and the sharing of best practices.

WORKSHOP 1

Convention Essentials: APMBC, CCM and CCW

 Room: B

Three humanitarian disarmament Conventions provide the legal backbone for mine action: the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Amended Protocol II on Mines, Bobby Traps and Other Devices and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

This workshop aims to update national directors on status and operations of these Conventions and provide an opportunity to answer questions from national mine action directors and advisors such as: Why and how to join or engage in the work of the Conventions? What support is available to States joining and implementing under the Conventions? What are the key provisions of the Conventions?

Key resources will be provided to participants to further engage with the Implementation Support Units and other actors supporting the implementation of these key Conventions. The three Implementation Support Units for the Conventions will be involved in the workshop

WORKSHOP 2

Leadership in Mine Action: Strategic Readiness for a Changing Sector

 Room: C

From working in complex operational circumstances to the shifting funding landscape to advancements in technologies, leaders need to possess a wide range of competencies to effectively fulfil their roles. This workshop will engage participants in an interactive exercise designed to provoke thought about different approaches to leadership challenges, with perspectives from both participants and facilitators on the traditional and evolving qualities needed to successfully lead and manage mine action programmes in the current environment.

The workshop will be run by the James Madison University

WORKSHOP 3

Operationalising the new International Mine Action Standard - Competency Standards for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Practitioners

 Room: E

This participant led workshop will share concrete and practical ideas to operationalize the new International Mine Action Standard – competency standard for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) practitioners (Test & Evaluation Protocol 12.10) in participant's respective countries and specific contexts. The workshop will introduce the new IMAS before participants will break into groups to inspire one another on its strategic operationalization. Depending on the participation, the group work may be facilitated in English, French and/or Arabic.

The workshop will be organized and run by the GICHD's EORE programme.

WORKSHOP 4

Taking a Practical Look at the Intersection Between Mine Action and the Environment

 Room: 14

This workshop explores how the future of mine action intersects with climate, environmental, and public health challenges. Participants will consider how the sector can adapt to evolving risks and strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration. Discussions will examine how climate change is reshaping explosive ordnance risk profiles and influencing clearance priorities, as well as the long-term environmental and health impacts of legacy contamination. The session will also highlight governance, financing, and policy opportunities to link mine action with broader climate and environmental agendas, and the role of environmental peacebuilding in supporting post-clearance climate resilience. Participants will identify practical opportunities for collaboration with actors across the environment, agriculture, health, and climate sectors to build safer, more resilient communities.



FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026

09:00 - 10:00

SIDE EVENTS

Ensuring Safe and Credible Land Release: Sri Lanka's Completion Survey Process and Lessons Learnt

 Room: B

The Sri Lanka Completion Survey Process (SLCSP) is a nationally led, evidence-based approach to verify that previously mined or explosive-contaminated areas are safe for civilian use. Launched in 2023, it systematically assesses around 1,400 Grama Niladhari divisions using GIS-based mapping, quality assurance, and community engagement. The process ensures credible, transparent land release, supports APMBC Article 5 compliance, identifies residual hazards, and contributes to safe resettlement, livelihoods, and sustainable development offering practical insights for other mine action programmes.


Participating Member States and organizations 

- National Mine Action Center (NMAC), Ministry of Housing, Construction and Water Supply, Sri Lanka
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Strengthening Animal Detection of Explosive Ordnance: from Standards to Impact for Communities

 Room: C

This side event will explore how advances in standards, technology and training are improving the efficiency of animal detection of explosive ordnance and supporting their integration into national mine action programmes - and why this matters for more efficient land release and secure communities. It will highlight practical field results and connect these to recent developments in guidance and capacity. The session aims to bridge policy and practice, and is intended for national authorities, operators, donors, technical specialists, and others interested in leveraging animal detection for impact.

Participating organizations 

- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- APOPO

From Contamination to Recovery: Mine Action as the Foundation for Reconstruction

 Room: E

This side event highlights how mine action supports reconstruction and recovery in post-conflict settings, emphasizing coordination between mine action, development, and urban recovery actors. It aims to enhance understanding of mine action as a key enabler of reconstruction, promote the exchange of practical experiences, strengthen cooperation between institutions and partners, and increase recognition of its role within broader recovery and development frameworks.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- The Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)
- ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mine Action Review/Norwegian People's Aid
- ITF Enhancing Human Security

The Precision Paradox: Beyond Algorithms, the Ethics and Accountability of Marketing AI in Mine Action

 Room: F

This session addresses the "precision paradox" in humanitarian mine action, where overhyped AI marketing masks critical technical limitations. We aim to bridge the gap between "black-box" algorithms and the ground truth of the minefield by promoting transparent, human-centred AI development. This event targets donors, technology providers, and demining practitioners. Together, we will explore how a "One Humanity" approach ensures that technology serves as a consultant to human judgement, protecting lives through meaningful accountability.

Participating organizations 

- Subsphere Corporation

10:15 - 11:15

SIDE EVENTS

Are We Behind the Curve – Drone-Delivered Explosive Ordnance and Mine Action?

 Room: B

In a few short years, drones of all kinds have revolutionized how wars are fought. Mine Action has yet to catch up with the latest developments, especially when it comes to classification, reporting and training. The objective of this side event is to initiate a sector-wide discussion and garner suggestions about the best way to address the rapidly evolving challenges posed by drone-delivered explosive ordnance.

Participating organizations 

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (organizer)
- Ukraine National Mine Action Centre
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Global Clearance Solutions (GCS)

Addressing the Remaining Mine Contamination: Practical Lessons Learned from Non-Technical Survey in the Republic of Serbia

 Room: C

This side event will showcase Serbia's Non-Technical Survey project addressing remaining mine contamination. With donor support and close integration of Information Management and field operations, the project—implemented in line with the latest NTS competencies—demonstrates how teams overcame legacy data, non-standard coordinate systems, limited access to remote communities, and capacity gaps. Solutions included recruiting and training local NTS members and a step-by-step capacity-building approach. The session will share practical lessons relevant for mine action in complex operational environments.

Participating organizations 

- Permanent Mission of Serbia
- Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC)
- ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF)
- H. Gray, Independent NTS Expert
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Mine Action, Counter-IED and IED Threat Mitigation: Comprehensive and Adaptive Responses

 Room: E

This panel will explore the key alignments and differences between mine action responses and counter-IED efforts. It will examine how each approach addresses strategy, planning, and operational challenges, particularly in contexts where humanitarian principles must be upheld while prioritizing the protection of civilians.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- Burkina Faso National Commission for Arms Control (NMAA) (TBC)
- UNMAS - Somalia
- UN Office of Mine Action and Police (OMAP) (TBC)
- The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mines Advisory Group

Ready to React: Humanitarian Mine Action in Emergencies

 Room: F

Humanitarian mine action is increasingly relied upon as a life-saving component of emergency response, protecting civilians and responders in armed conflict and climate-related hazards. This session examines real examples of emergency preparedness and response spanning risk education, survey, explosive ordnance disposal, victim trauma care, and more. We will also explore coordination, conflict sensitivity, and do no harm. It is meant for operational agencies, coordination bodies, national authorities, and donors working in humanitarian response.

Participating organizations 

- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS),
- The Explosive Weapons Trauma Care Collective (EXTRACCT),
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA),
- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC),
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

11:30 - 12:30

SIDE EVENTS

Syria Unsafe to Recover: Mine action, Livelihoods, and the Cost of Short-Term Funding

 Room: B

Syria's widespread explosive hazards continue to endanger civilians and block access to land, services, and livelihoods. This session will explore how integrated humanitarian mine action can support recovery, self-reliance, and community resilience. It aims to bring together donors, United Nations agencies, and practitioners to discuss practical approaches and the need for predictable, multi-year funding to enable safe, sustainable recovery.

Participating Members States and organizations 

- Danish Refugee Council, DRC (Syria)
- Humanity and Inclusion, HI (Syria)
- Safe Land

Outcome based Finance in Humanitarian Mine Action: Putting Theory into Practice

 Room: C

Given pressures on development funding, Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) must diversify its funding streams. Other sectors have benefited from using outcome-based finance to attract new funding. Drawing on two pilot outcome-based finance mine action projects in Cambodia (APOPO) and Syria (DCA) and the expertise of GICHD's innovative finance secretariat, the panel will consider the potential for HMA outcome-based finance projects to attract additional funding from governments and the private sector.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- United Kingdom, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- APOPO
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Operationalizing the Mine Action–Development Nexus: Lessons from the Korea–Vietnam Peace Village Project

 Room: E

Using the Korea–Vietnam Peace Village Project as a case study, the event will examine the enabling factors that allowed mine action to be successfully integrated with development activities such as climate-resilient housing, community health stations, and climate-resilient agriculture. The discussion will highlight how coordination mechanisms, national ownership, financing modalities, and deliberate sequencing between land release and development investments can transform mine action from a standalone activity into a foundation for sustainable development. The event aims to provide practical lessons and replicable approaches for countries and organizations seeking to operationalize the mine action–development nexus in other contexts.


Participating Member States and organizations 

- Viet Nam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)
- United Nations Development Programme Vietnam (UNDP)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Navigating the Minefield: Data and Strategies for Protecting Civilians and Humanitarians from Explosive Hazards

 Room: F

This event explores the real-world dangers of landmines and explosives through the lens of data from Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) Explosive Violence Monitor and the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB). These two unique data initiatives map the evolving risks facing both civilians and humanitarian personnel. Also featuring a firsthand perspective from an operational NGO, this session bridges the gap between raw numbers and the lived reality of mine action in the field.

Participating organizations 

- Humanitarian Outcomes - Aid Worker Security Database
- Action on Armed Violence - Explosive Violence Monitor

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch break

13:30 - 14:30


SIDE EVENTS

Gaza: Explosive Hazards in Early Recovery – Coordinated and Integrated Mine Action



Room: B

To highlight how explosive ordnance contamination constrains early recovery in contexts where the full scope of mine action cannot yet be implemented and to present adaptive solutions applied in Gaza under severe operational constraints. The event will showcase coordinated and integrated approaches combining explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) – conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) – and victim assistance, demonstrating how these pillars work together to support humanitarian access, protect civilians, and enable early recovery efforts in a highly complex operational environment.

Participating organizations 

- Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- The HALO Trust
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Underwater Explosives – Past, Present and Future



Room: C

Sea mines and other underwater explosives remain an overlooked legacy of past and current conflicts. Millions of tonnes of munitions lie corroding on the seafloor and in inland waters, posing risks to ecosystems, coastal communities, the blue economy and maritime security. Governance and responses remain fragmented and largely reactive. This side event will examine underwater explosives as a multisectoral challenge and explore risk-based approaches to monitoring, clearance and maritime security governance.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Government of the Solomon Islands
- GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- JPI Oceans

Beyond Survival: Victim Assistance, Trauma Care, and Psychosocial Support in EO-Affected Syria

 Room: E

As explosive ordnance casualties rise in Syria, victim assistance remains one of the most underfunded and often overlooked pillars of mine action. This event will bring forward perspectives from survivors and practitioners to highlight gaps in trauma care, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support. It will examine what is needed to ensure sustained, inclusive support to survivors, their families, and communities — recognising victim assistance as a lifelong commitment.

Participating Member States and organizations

(coming soon)

From Shared Contamination to Shared Solutions: Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam Addressing UXO Issues Together

 Room: F

This session explores how Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam are working together, with support from Japan, to address shared unexploded ordnance challenges in the region. It highlights why cooperation among neighbouring affected countries matters and how practical exchange can improve survey, clearance, and future regional collaboration. The session is intended for national mine action authorities/centres, partners, and practitioners interested in regional approaches that can strengthen cooperation and improve responses to shared contamination challenges.

Participating Member States and organizations 

- ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)
- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)
- Viet Nam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC)

14:30 - 15:00

Coffee Break

15:00 - 16:15

Plenary 5: Reframing our Approach: Addressing the “Cost” of Mine Action Responses

 Room: D

Mine action is at a pivotal moment. The scale of contamination in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other regions has exposed a widening gap between needs and available resources. Grant funding made available by public donors is insufficient to meet the requirements. This panel will bring together humanitarian, developmental, economic, and financial perspectives to explore how mine action approaches can be reframed to unlock private investment and other funding streams without compromising humanitarian principles.

Moderator:

- Mr. David Riley, UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament and Chair of the Mine Action Support Group

Speakers:

- Ministry of Economy, Environment, and Agriculture of Ukraine
- Ms. Emilie Potvin, Director, Global Portfolios, UNOPS
- Ms. María Merchán Rocamora – Innovative Finance Advisor, GICHD
- Mr. Abdul Wahid Abdul Majid, Director, DAFA (Afghan NGO)

16:15 - 16:30

Closing Session

 Room: D

Speakers

- Kazumi Ogawa, Director, UNMAS
- Amb. Tobias Privitelli, Director, GICHD