

FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY)
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WIMUN NEW YORK 2026

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

MINE ACTION ASSISTANCE

Simulation: Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

Welcome to WIMUN New York 2026,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the General Assembly in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Even after wars end, landmines, cluster munitions, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) remain buried in the ground, continuing to kill and injure civilians. These explosive remnants of war (ERW) make farmland unsafe, block access to schools and hospitals, and prevent displaced families from returning home. In short, they keep communities trapped in the shadow of war long after the fighting has stopped.

To respond, the international community amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) that entered into force in 1998 to protect civilians and combatants from harm caused by mines and other devices, established landmark treaties such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Treaty) that entered into force in 1999 and the Convention on Cluster Munitions that entered into force in 2010.

Yet challenges remain. The problem today is widespread. At least 58 States and territories remain contaminated with anti-personnel mines, 29 are affected by cluster munition remnants, and more than 60 face IED contamination. This is placing mine action efforts under great strain.

Some States are withdrawing from or suspending their participation in these treaties, raising concerns about backsliding on humanitarian norms. Meanwhile, non-State armed groups are increasingly using sophisticated IEDs in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Nigeria, and Somalia. And the expanded use and subsequent contamination across conflict zones continues to grow in the fields of Ukraine, urban centres in Gaza and the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and rural communities in Myanmar.

Mine action is about more than removing explosives. It is also about supporting peace, development, and human security. Clearing contaminated land enables farmers in Afghanistan and Iraq to plant crops again, displaced families in South Sudan to return home, and peacekeepers in Somalia and the Central African Republic to move safely on key supply routes. Risk education programs—from theatre performances for children in Abyei to television campaigns in Afghanistan and school-based programs in Yemen—help people avoid danger in their daily lives. Survivors receive assistance ranging from prosthetic limbs in the Syrian Arab Republic to psychosocial support and livelihood training in Nigeria and Viet Nam, helping them reintegrate into society.

The UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee plays an important role by keeping global attention on this issue, reviewing reports, and ensuring accurate information is shared. The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), together with other UN bodies, integrates mine action into broader humanitarian and development efforts—from rebuilding schools and clinics in Viet Nam on cleared land to ensuring safe agricultural recovery in Ukraine.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Yet funding for mine action has fallen sharply in recent years, even as global military expenditures have reached record highs. Many NGOs have been forced to scale back programmes, threatening progress. Climate change further complicates clearance, with floods in Afghanistan and heavy rains in Abyei shifting explosive ordnance into new areas and reducing safe operating windows.

In the end, mine action is both a humanitarian and a development priority. It saves lives, restores land to productive use, and builds safer, more resilient societies. By upholding international humanitarian disarmament treaties, investing in clearance, victim assistance, and risk education, and ensuring predictable funding, the international community can make progress toward the goal of a world free from the deadly legacy of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Key Points and Main Issues

5 Pillars of Mine Action

- **Mine Clearance**
 - Core component of mine action, including:
 - Surveys
 - Mapping and minefield marking
 - Actual clearance of mines ("demining")
 - Two types:
 - **Military mine clearance:** conducted by soldiers during conflict to clear strategic paths.
 - **Humanitarian mine clearance:** aims to clear land so civilians can safely return and resume normal life, restoring community peace and security.
- **Mine Risk Education (MRE)**
 - Educational activities to reduce injury risk from mines and unexploded ordnance.
 - Methods include:
 - Public-information campaigns
 - Education and training
 - Community liaison
 - Objectives:
 - Raise awareness to encourage safe behaviors
 - Reduce risk to allow safe living and economic/social development without explosive hazards
- **Victim Assistance**
 - Core obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Article Six).
 - Provides care for mine victims, their families, and affected communities.
 - Includes:
 - Emergency and ongoing medical care
 - Physical rehabilitation
 - Psychosocial support and social inclusion
 - Legal and policy frameworks to protect and support persons with disabilities
- **Advocacy**
 - Promotes universal participation in treaties banning or limiting landmines.
 - Supports:
 - Monitoring and meetings of treaty member states ("state parties")
 - Key treaties include:
 - Anti-personnel mine-ban treaty (since 1997)
 - Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (addressing booby-traps and anti-vehicle mines)
 - Provides technical advice and capacity building for treaty implementation.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

- **Stockpile Destruction**

- Stockpiled mines exceed those laid in the ground.
 - Under Article 4 of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention:
 - States must destroy stockpiles within 4 years of accession.
 - 65 countries have destroyed over 37 million mines.
 - 51 countries declare no stockpiles.
 - Some countries are scheduled to destroy stockpiles soon.
 - UNMAS role:
 - Provides technical support for safe destruction of stockpiles.
 - Assists with proper storage and inspection of ammunition.
 - Part of Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) programs.
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Statement by the Secretary-General on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

2025

Summary: In response to rising global conflicts and plans by some states to leave the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the UN Secretary-General voiced concern that key humanitarian norms are at risk. He urged all states to respect disarmament treaties, stop withdrawals, and called on non-members to join the Convention. To support this, he launched a global campaign to strengthen mine action, promote humanitarian disarmament, and move toward a mine-free world. The six-month campaign will focus on building public support and encouraging states to take concrete steps.

South Sudan - Project Case Study

2025

Summary: The emergency response to the humanitarian and climate crisis project, carried out in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), provided crucial mine action support to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Together with implementing partners, UNOPS facilitated the survey and release of land equivalent to 1,427 football fields. This effort restored safe access to land and livelihoods for over 588,000 community members while raising mine risk awareness among more than 300,000 people. Overall, the project makes primary contributions to Goal 13 'climate action' and Goal 17 'partnerships for the goals', and secondary contributions to Goal 5 'gender equality' and Goal 16 'peace, justice and strong institutions'.

UN General Assembly Resolution 78/70

2023

Summary: UN General Assembly Resolution 78/70 reaffirms global commitment to mine action, emphasizing the urgent need to address the humanitarian, developmental, and security threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), particularly to civilians, children, displaced persons, and peacekeepers. It calls on Member States and the UN to uphold international obligations, support affected countries through financial, technical, and capacity-building assistance, and integrate mine action into humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts. The resolution stresses the importance of victim assistance, including medical care, rehabilitation, and livelihood support, and promotes inclusive, gender- and disability-sensitive approaches. It highlights the role of the UN Mine Action Service and coordination mechanisms, encourages continued strategy development and evaluation, and requests a progress report for the General Assembly's 80th session.

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

2023

Summary: The UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action praised Cambodia's leadership ahead of the 2024 Review Conference and highlighted the importance of international cooperation to combat landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). It emphasized capacity-building efforts, such as training personnel in Iraq, but noted ongoing funding challenges in countries like Afghanistan and Yemen. The statement called for enhanced regional cooperation, commitment to disarmament norms, and greater support to achieve a mine-free world.

UN General Assembly Resolution 76/74

2021

Summary: The UN General Assembly Resolution 76/74 reaffirms international commitment to mine action, highlighting the humanitarian, developmental, and peacebuilding challenges posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. It encourages member states, the UN, and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts in clearance, victim assistance, risk education, and capacity-building, with special attention to vulnerable populations including women, children, and persons with disabilities. The resolution underscores the importance of coordination, innovation, sustainable funding, and localization, and urges integration of mine action into broader humanitarian and development frameworks. It also calls for improved reporting, rapid response, and ongoing UN support through the 2019–2023 Strategy on Mine Action.

Safe Ground - Turning Minefield into Playing Fields

2019

Summary: The Safe Ground campaign (2019–2023), launched by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, aims to raise awareness and resources for victims and survivors of explosive ordnance by turning mine-contaminated areas into safe sports fields, promoting community development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Coordinated by UNMAS and supported by partners including UN agencies, civil society, and sports organizations, the campaign focuses on clearing explosive hazards, supporting victim assistance, and creating inclusive sports facilities that bring communities together. It highlights the rights of survivors to rehabilitation and inclusion, stressing the importance of safe land for rebuilding lives and infrastructure. Pilot projects in countries like Cambodia and Vietnam demonstrate Safe Ground's practical impact by clearing land and improving survivor support systems. Through partnerships and advocacy, Safe Ground seeks to transform dangerous areas into safe, productive spaces that foster healing and social cohesion.

Security Council Resolution 2365

2017

Summary: Resolution 2365 expresses grave concern over the humanitarian, social, and economic impact of landmines, ERW, and IEDs. It urges parties in armed conflicts to cease indiscriminate use of explosive devices and calls for enhanced support in clearance, victim assistance, and risk education. The resolution emphasizes integrating mine action early in peacekeeping and humanitarian responses and supports the coordination role of UNMAS and cooperation with regional organizations. It also requests regular updates from the Secretary-General and encourages further capacity-building and adherence to international mine action standards. Unlike the broader mandates and strategic frameworks found in the earlier two documents, this Security Council resolution is more focused on operational and security-related aspects of mine action within the context of armed conflict and peacekeeping. It places stronger emphasis on threats posed by IEDs used by terrorists, the protection of peacekeepers, and the need to integrate mine action into UN missions. This resolution also includes more direct calls to action for Member States and UN entities, including formal requests for reports from the Secretary-General.

Women in Mine Action: UNMAS Field Case Studies

2017

Summary: This resource highlights the role of women in mine action across multiple conflict-affected countries. In Libya, UNMAS trained women civil society members to lead small arms risk education and launched initiatives such as a national SALW awareness day. In Somalia, South Sudan, Abyei, and the DRC, women have taken on critical roles as deminers, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) operators, community liaisons, and technical specialists, often balancing personal hardships with professional responsibilities. Their work not only reduces explosive threats but also empowers women, fosters reconciliation, and supports broader peacebuilding and recovery efforts.

UNMAS in support of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

2025

Summary: This resource highlights the work of UNMAS in supporting the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). For the 2024–2025 period, UNMAS has advanced demining, explosive ordnance risk education, weapons and ammunition management, and patrol support to enable peacekeeping, humanitarian aid delivery, community resettlement, and safe migration. Achievements include clearing land and roads of explosive hazards, removing and destroying ERW and weapons, training thousands of personnel and community members, and supporting hundreds of border monitoring missions. These efforts directly contribute to peace, security, and stability in the contested Abyei Area between Sudan and South Sudan.

UNMAS efforts in Libya

2025

Summary: This resource highlights UNMAS’s work in Libya throughout 2024 to address widespread explosive ordnance contamination, strengthen weapons and ammunition management, and build the capacity of Libyan institutions. Through clearance operations, risk education reaching tens of thousands, training for police and mine action personnel, and support to national and international partners, UNMAS contributes to protecting civilians, enabling humanitarian aid, and advancing peace and stabilization efforts in a country still facing significant security challenges.

UNMAS efforts in Somalia

2025

Summary: This resource outlines UNMAS Somalia’s role in enhancing safety and security by mitigating explosive threats, particularly IEDs, through clearance operations, risk education, and capacity building of Somali security forces and African Union troops. Working under UN mandates, UNMAS supports policy, training, and weapons management while protecting civilians, aiding humanitarian access, and enabling the transition of security responsibilities to Somali authorities.

UNMAS efforts in Syria

2025

Summary: This resource outlines the UNMAS Syria Response Programme's work to reduce the widespread threat of explosive contamination across Syria. It helps make access to basic services safer and supports humanitarian and recovery efforts. The program covers clearance, risk education, victim support, and coordination activities in areas heavily affected by explosives. Despite limited funding, UNMAS continues to lead mine action planning and training to reduce explosive risks, assist survivors, and support safe rebuilding and development in Syria.

UNMAS efforts in South Sudan

2025

Summary: This resource highlights UNMAS South Sudan's role in protecting civilians, enabling humanitarian assistance, and supporting peacebuilding by clearing explosive hazards, providing risk education, and strengthening national mine action capacity. Operating under UNMISS, UNMAS has destroyed millions of explosive items, cleared critical land and roads, and supported displaced populations' safe return, while working with the Government of South Sudan toward a mine-free future by 2030.

UNMAS efforts in Iraq

2025

Summary: This resource outlines UNMAS Iraq's efforts to address explosive ordnance contamination, one of the country's most pressing humanitarian and development challenges. It highlights recent progress, including clearance of ERW and IEDs, training of security forces, and risk education reaching thousands of civilians. The program supports Iraq's national authorities through technical assistance, capacity building of local mine action organizations, and direct clearance operations, enabling safe returns, reconstruction, and sustainable development while reducing risks to civilians and supporting broader humanitarian goals.

UNMAS efforts in Occupied Palestinian Territory

2025

Summary: This resource outlines UNMAS's expanded mine action efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in Gaza and the West Bank, following the escalation of conflict in October 2023. UNMAS provides explosive ordnance disposal, risk education, and capacity building for the Palestine Mine Action Center, while coordinating humanitarian mine action activities in Gaza to enable safe aid delivery and recovery. Amid ongoing conflict and urban devastation, UNMAS plays a critical role in mitigating explosive hazards, supporting debris management, and facilitating early recovery and reconstruction, aligned with international resolutions and humanitarian strategies.

UNMAS efforts in Sudan

2025

Summary: This resource details UNMAS Sudan's emergency mine action response amid the ongoing conflict, which has displaced over 11 million people and worsened explosive ordnance contamination. UNMAS provides risk education, technical advice, mapping, and coordination to protect civilians, aid workers, and displaced populations, while preparing for survey and clearance operations. Working with national and international partners, UNMAS supports humanitarian access, community safety, and recovery efforts, with a 2025 funding need of \$10.8 million to assist 2.9 million people in need.

Remarks by US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield at a UN Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on Mine Action

2024

Summary: U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield addressed the UN to highlight the devastating impact of landmines, explosive remnants of war, and IEDs, which injure or kill someone every hour. She praised the life-saving work of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and its partners for providing education, assessments, and explosive removal. The U.S. supports UNMAS through funding and the deployment of expert explosive disposal officers. She welcomed the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 79/1, reaffirming the importance of mine action in peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts. The U.S. emphasized that mine action should be integrated across all stages of peace operations to reduce harm and save lives.

UNMAS efforts in Central African Republic (CAR)

2024

Summary: This resource outlines the work of UNMAS in the Central African Republic (CAR) as part of MINUSCA since 2014. Its efforts focus on reducing explosive ordnance risks, strengthening national capacity in weapons and ammunition management, and protecting civilians and humanitarian actors. Through clearance, risk education, training, and support for legal and institutional frameworks, UNMAS enhances security, supports peacekeeping operations, and contributes to CAR's long-term stability and peacebuilding.

UNMAS efforts in Ethiopia

2024

Summary: This resource details UNMAS's work in Northern Ethiopia from January to September 2024, focusing on explosive ordnance risk education, technical assessments, and humanitarian coordination in Tigray, Afar, and Amhara. Through training, surveys, and removal of explosive hazards, UNMAS supports the safe delivery of aid, protection of civilians, and return of displaced persons, while also strengthening national capacity to address contamination. Despite progress, significant funding and capacity development remain critical to sustaining operations and reducing the threat of explosive ordnance.

UNMAS efforts in Afghanistan

2024

Summary: This resource outlines UNMAS's efforts in Afghanistan to reduce the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war, which have caused tens of thousands of civilian casualties since 1989, the majority being children. It highlights the clearance of millions of explosive devices and thousands of hazardous areas, enabling safer living conditions and improved access to land and services. The report details ongoing activities such as explosive ordnance disposal, risk education, humanitarian coordination, and advocacy, while also noting urgent needs due to underfunding and workforce decline. Continued donor support is emphasized as critical for sustaining mine action and ensuring stability, safety, and development in Afghanistan.

Statement by Mr. ONO Sho, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, at the General Debate of the Fourth Committee, Agenda Item 46: Assistance in Mine Action **2023**

Summary: Japan reaffirms its commitment to a mine-free world, noting that while the Ottawa Convention has achieved progress since 1999, landmines and improvised explosive devices continue to endanger civilians, worsened by challenges such as extreme weather. Supporting the draft resolution on Assistance in Mine Action, Japan emphasizes sustained clearance, regional cooperation, and victim assistance as its three main priorities. In 2022, it provided over \$52 million in aid across 22 countries, highlighting successful triangular cooperation such as joint efforts with Cambodia to train Ukrainian deminers. Looking ahead to 2025, Japan will seek the Presidency of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, pledging continued collaboration with the UN, Member States, and civil society.

Statement by H.E. James Larsen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Australian Mission to the United Nations **2023**

Summary: Australia, on behalf of Canada and New Zealand (CANZ), expressed support for the resolution on Assistance in Mine Action and thanked Poland for facilitating it. CANZ highlighted recent positive developments, including the 25th anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the adoption of the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, progress on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the appointment of a UN Global Advocate for persons with disabilities, and increased participation of women in UN mine action. Despite these gains, they noted ongoing threats from explosive ordnance, worsened by climate change, extreme weather, and the large-scale mining of land in Ukraine that threatens food security. CANZ stressed the need for a holistic approach linking peace, security, development, and humanitarian aid, reaffirming its commitment to achieving a world free of explosive hazards.

UNMAS efforts in Nigeria

2023

Summary: This resource outlines UNMAS Nigeria's efforts since 2018 to protect civilians in the conflict-affected northeast through explosive ordnance risk education, non-technical surveys, victim assistance, and capacity development. By training national authorities, civil society, and security forces, as well as delivering life-saving awareness and response programs, UNMAS supports safe movement, humanitarian aid delivery, and long-term resilience. Despite significant achievements, continued funding and capacity-building are critical to addressing widespread contamination and supporting displaced and vulnerable populations.

UNMAS efforts in Lebanon

2023

Summary: This resource highlights UNMAS's support to UNIFIL in Lebanon, focusing on demining, explosive ordnance disposal, and risk education along the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel. It details quality assurance for demining teams, technical guidance, and training to ensure safe operations, while also supporting the Lebanon Mine Action Centre in coordinating clearance efforts. Additionally, UNMAS provides safety briefings and community risk education, contributing to regional stability, protection of civilians, and the security of both UN personnel and local communities.

UNMAS efforts in Colombia

2023

Summary: This resource highlights UNMAS's critical support to Colombia's mine action sector, which has played a key role in implementing the 2016 Peace Accord by enabling land clearance, risk education, victim assistance, and the reintegration of ex-combatants. Through technical assistance, capacity building, and coordination with national authorities, UNMAS has helped expand mine action operations across affected regions, contributing to safer communities and sustainable development. The program also supports peace efforts and encourages countries to include mine action in their national plans.

UNMAS efforts in Cyprus

2023

Summary: This resource outlines UNMAS Cyprus's efforts since 2016 to reduce mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) threats, supporting peace and confidence-building between communities. Through land clearance, technical support, and risk awareness training, UNMAS facilitates safer movement, agricultural activities, and UN peacekeeping operations. Its work also aids reconciliation efforts and prepares for future mine surveys and clearance to advance towards a mine-free Cyprus.

UNMAS efforts in Territory of Western Sahara

2023

Summary : This resource outlines UNMAS-MINURSO's efforts in Western Sahara to reduce the threat of landmines and explosive ordnance, ensuring safe passage for UN personnel and civilians east of the berm. Activities include land clearance, risk education, victim assistance, and technical support for MINURSO investigations, though renewed hostilities since 2020 have hindered operations. Despite challenges, UNMAS continues to provide safety through route verification, digital reporting, and coordination with local and international partners.

UNMAS efforts in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

2022

Summary: This resource outlines the work of UNMAS in the Central African Republic (CAR) as part of MINUSCA since 2014. Its efforts focus on reducing explosive ordnance risks, strengthening national capacity in weapons and ammunition management, and protecting civilians and humanitarian actors. Through clearance, risk education, training, and support for legal and institutional frameworks, UNMAS enhances security, supports peacekeeping operations, and contributes to CAR's long-term stability and peacebuilding.

UNMAS efforts in Yemen**2022**

Summary: This resource details UNMAS's strategic and technical support to the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) in Yemen, focusing on mine action to enable safe operations amid widespread contamination by landmines, IEDs, and explosive remnants of war. It highlights ongoing risks to civilians—especially women and children—and emphasizes UNMAS's role in risk education, incident monitoring, and advocacy to enhance mine action interventions and promote safety in conflict-affected areas of Hudaydah and beyond.

Statement on mine action UNSC (Iran)**2021**

Summary: Iran's statement to the UN Security Council emphasizes that landmines and explosive remnants of war pose major threats to security and development, requiring comprehensive demining plans, training, and international support. Iran criticized sanctions that block access to mine-clearance technologies, calling them unjust and a barrier to humanitarian action. Despite U.S. sanctions, Iran has cleared over three million mines using domestic resources and now assists other countries in demining efforts. Iran stressed that mine action should remain under the General Assembly's purview, not the Security Council, and reaffirmed its commitment to regional cooperation and sharing expertise in mine action.

“Mine Action and Sustaining Peace: Stronger Partnership for better delivery”

2021

Summary: The Republic of Korea emphasized the importance of mine action for peace, security, sustainable development, and humanitarian response, while acknowledging the growing threats posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices. Although unable to join the Ottawa Convention due to the security situation on the Korean Peninsula, Korea reaffirmed support for its goals and outlined domestic and international efforts, including steady mine clearance, adherence to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and over \$40 million in contributions to demining and victim assistance since 1993. Korea highlighted demining efforts in the Demilitarized Zone following the 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, tying them to a vision of transforming the DMZ into an international peace zone with global support. Finally, Korea stressed the need for better training and equipment for peacekeepers to counter mine-related threats and expressed hope that the 2021 Peacekeeping Ministerial in Seoul would strengthen partnerships for safer peacekeeping operations.

Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) **2020**

Summary: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continues to face serious risks from landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war, affecting people in 18 Arabic-speaking countries and territories. To address these challenges, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) launched the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP), building on its earlier Arabic Language Outreach Programme. The ARCP aims to improve knowledge-sharing, reduce training and translation costs for mine-affected states, and spread best practices across the region. In partnership with the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC), the programme provides training and workshops in Arabic, supports regional exchanges, mobilizes local expertise, and translates key mine action resources.

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Statement on Assistance in Mine Action by the Chinese Delegation at the Fourth Committee of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

2024

Summary: Peru's statement focuses on the urgent need for a legally binding treaty to ban and regulate autonomous weapons systems, especially those that operate without human control and can independently target humans. Peru expresses concern that such systems could lower the threshold for the use of force and even become weapons of mass destruction. It highlights Peru's role in co-sponsoring related UN resolutions and its contribution to Draft Protocol VI, which outlines prohibitions, regulations, and capacity-building measures for autonomous weapons.

Germany's national contribution to the UN Secretary-General's Report on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS)

2024

Summary: Germany's position on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) is built on three main pillars. First, it supports the eleven Guiding Principles adopted by the CCW's Group of Governmental Experts in 2019, which affirm that international humanitarian law applies to all weapons systems. Second, Germany emphasizes that meaningful human control must be maintained throughout the entire lifecycle of any autonomous weapon system to ensure accountability and compliance with legal standards. Finally, it advocates for the negotiation of an additional protocol under the CCW to strengthen international regulation of these technologies.

Statement on Assistance in Mine Action by the Chinese Delegation at the Fourth Committee of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly **2007**

Summary: China expressed appreciation for UN mine action efforts and reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the humanitarian impact of landmines. While not a party to the Ottawa Convention, China supports its goals and adheres strictly to Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which it believes balances humanitarian concerns with national security. China highlighted its domestic demining successes and active role in international mine clearance through financial aid, equipment donations, peacekeeping deployments, and training programs, especially in Africa. It pledged to continue supporting demining initiatives globally and emphasized its willingness to collaborate with the international community to reduce landmine threats.

**ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Joint
Statement on Strengthening Humanitarian
Mine Action Cooperation**

2024

Summary: The ASEAN Member States and China issued a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to strengthening humanitarian mine action cooperation. They condemned the human and developmental toll of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), praised past demining efforts, and highlighted ongoing challenges. The statement emphasized integrating mine action into regional development plans, enhancing training and technology use, and supporting the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC). It also called for stronger cooperation with UN agencies and increased international support, aiming to promote peace, security, and prosperity across the region.

**Statement on behalf of the European Union
and its Member States**

2023

Summary: The European Union and its Member States reaffirm their strong commitment to a mine-free world by 2025 and emphasize the critical role of mine action in peacebuilding, humanitarian aid, and sustainable development. They express concern over the ongoing threats posed by anti-personnel mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), especially to civilians and children. The EU urges all states to join and implement international treaties like the Ottawa Convention and calls for enhanced cooperation, funding, and national ownership in mine action. They also stress the importance of integrating gender, age, and disability perspectives and upholding international humanitarian and human rights law.

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) and
mine action (MA)

2023

Summary: The spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and the presence of landmines and leftover explosives from wars continue to put civilians at risk, fuel violence, and block countries from recovering after conflict. These weapons don't just harm people — they also weaken economies, healthcare systems, and social stability. To tackle these problems, NATO works with its Allies, partners, and international organizations like the UN and EU through two main tools: the Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action and the NATO Partnership Trust Fund. The Working Group creates a space for countries and organizations to share information, coordinate projects, and run training programs, while also supporting global agreements like the Ottawa Convention (landmine ban) and the Arms Trade Treaty. The Trust Fund projects have had major results: destroying millions of weapons, landmines, and explosives; clearing thousands of hectares of dangerous land; and helping retrain former soldiers for civilian jobs. Overall, NATO's efforts aim to make communities safer, prevent weapons from fueling crime and terrorism, and support long-term peace and recovery.

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

2025

Summary: The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) will hold its 1271st session on April 1 to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The session will feature remarks from AU and UN officials, and discussions will focus on the ongoing threat of landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) across Africa, especially as 2025 marks the deadline for many countries to clear mines under the Ottawa Convention. While 93% of AU Member States are parties to the Convention, many have yet to meet clearance obligations, and some countries face renewed mine threats. The PSC is expected to address challenges including funding gaps, increased use of mines by terrorist groups, and the need for greater technical and political commitment from Member States. The Council may also call for enhanced cooperation, support for mine clearance, victim inclusion, and progress on the AU's Counter-IED Strategy. The session aims to reinforce Africa's role in global mine action efforts and urge stronger implementation of international mine treaties.

Addressing mine ban treaty challenges: new contamination and compliance

2023

Summary: The 2023 Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention highlighted growing challenges from new mine contamination, particularly in countries like Nigeria, Yemen, and Ukraine. Many of the world's poorest countries reported dangerously low international funding for mine survivor assistance and clearance programs. Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to the Convention amid allegations of mine use, while Greece announced plans to destroy remaining stockpiles. The meetings also addressed Eritrea's non-compliance and emphasized the importance of international cooperation and transparency. Over 450 delegates from 91 states and 60 organizations participated, reaffirming global dedication to mine clearance and victim support.

ACAPS: Iraq Mine Action

2021

Summary: The UN praised Cambodia's leadership in mine action and emphasized the need for international cooperation and funding to meet Mine Ban Treaty goals. It highlighted progress in capacity-building, such as training in Iraq, but noted challenges in countries like Afghanistan and Yemen due to lack of funding. The growing threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) was stressed, along with the need for regional cooperation and intelligence sharing. The UN also expressed concern over civilian harm from ongoing conflicts and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting mine-free initiatives and treaty adherence.

Local NGOs and Firms in Mine Action

2008

Summary: Sustainable mine action depends on empowering local solutions, yet local NGOs and commercial companies have historically had limited roles in major programs. Recent progress in countries like Iraq and Sudan shows increasing involvement of local actors, but confusion persists between NGOs and for-profit companies, often complicating donor decisions. The article argues that the legal status of an organization—NGO vs. commercial—is less important than its ability to carry out demining tasks effectively, suggesting funding should be based on the nature of tasks, not organizational type. Trust, governance, and experience are critical to determining an organization's reliability, especially for local NGOs seeking donor support. Ultimately, success in mine action requires focusing on task-specific performance, accountability, and outcomes, rather than whether an entity is labeled nonprofit or for-profit.

Addressing the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions: key issues 2008

Summary: Cluster munitions pose serious, long-term risks to civilians due to their wide-area effects and unexploded submunitions, which have caused harm in many countries. Existing international laws have not sufficiently addressed these dangers, and technical fixes like self-destruct mechanisms are unreliable. Despite growing concern, political challenges have slowed progress toward banning these weapons. The Oslo Conference aimed to start a process for a legally binding treaty by 2008 to prohibit the use, production, and transfer of dangerous cluster munitions, destroy stockpiles, and support clearance and victim assistance. National moratoria and collective international action were urged to reduce humanitarian harm.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction 1997

Summary: The 1997 Ottawa Convention, formally known as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, is a landmark international treaty that bans the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. Adopted on September 18, 1997 and entering into force on March 1, 1999, the Convention requires States Parties to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years, clear all mined areas under their control within ten years, and assist landmine victims through medical care, rehabilitation, and social inclusion. It also mandates annual reporting and encourages international cooperation. With over 160 countries now party to it, the treaty has significantly advanced humanitarian disarmament, though key powers like the United States, Russia, and China remain non-signatories.
