

Media Update

3 April 2019

United Nations

International Mine Awareness Day

4 April 2019

Secretary-General's Message

“The path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be clear of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. All people have the right to live in security, and not fear their next step. Mine action clears paths and creates safe ground on which homes can be built or rebuilt. Mine action changes mindsets so that people know how to protect themselves. It gives people and communities new horizons and hope.

For more than 20 years, the United Nations has helped States to free themselves from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. This year, the United Nations has launched a new strategy and a campaign -- “Safe Ground” -- to ensure that no one, no state, and no war zone is left behind. With this global campaign, our aim is to turn minefields into playing fields, and to raise resources for victims and survivors of armed conflict.

I call on all States to provide political and financial support for mine action. I also call on States that have not yet acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and associated Protocols, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to do so without delay. For prevention, protection, and lasting peace, universalization of these treaties is essential and strict compliance with International Humanitarian Law is a must.

I pay tribute to the UN Mine Action Service and to the women and men who show extraordinary bravery in advancing this vital work, literally step by step. On this International Day for Mine Awareness, let us reaffirm our



commitment to eradicating the horrendous damage caused by landmines and assisting those who have been harmed by their use. “ *António Guterres*

2019 Theme: "United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home"

On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly [declared](#) that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

It called for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the civilian population, or an impediment to social and economic development at the national and local levels.

For over 20 years, the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service ([UNMAS](#)) has been driven by the needs of affected people and tailored to the threat of explosive hazards faced by civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarians.

UNMAS works to save lives, to facilitate deployment of UN missions and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to protect civilians, to support the voluntary return of the internally displaced and refugees, to enable humanitarian and recovery activities and to advocate for international humanitarian and human rights law.

Each year, UNMAS organizes a multimedia exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to raise awareness on threats caused by mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices. With co-organizers, UNMAS will unveil a photo exhibition featuring the “Safe Ground” campaign, which promotes the linkage between mine action, sport and the Sustainable Development Goals by showing how replacing minefields with playing fields brings communities together and raises awareness about victims and survivors of armed conflict.

Mine Action programmes in several countries will hold Safe Ground events, including in the State of Palestine, where UNMAS is organizing a football

tournament in Gaza; in Cyprus, where UNMAS will survey and do a final sweep over land in the buffer zone that will be used by UNMAS and UNFICYP to construct a Safe Ground sporting facility; in Somalia where a soccer match will be organized; in Iraq where a road race is planned; as well as in South Sudan, Lebanon and Colombia, to name a few.

Background:

The United Nations advocates for the universalization of existing legal frameworks and encourages Member States to expand those regimes and develop new international instruments to protect civilians from the scourges of landmines and explosive remnants of war. It undertakes this work in collaboration with interested states, civil society, mine action and international organizations.

Since the [Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction](#), commonly known as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention opened for signature in 1997, 156 countries have ratified or acceded to it. More than 41 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed, and their production, sale and transfer have in essence stopped. The first of March 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and the Second Review Conference was held later in 2009 in Cartagena, Colombia. In addition to anti-personnel mines, challenges remain with respect to all other explosive remnants of war. On 12 November 2006, the Secretary-General welcomed the entry into force of Protocol V on explosive remnants of war from the [Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons](#) and reiterated his call for its universalization and implementation. In December 2008, the Secretary-General welcomed the opening for signature of the [Convention on Cluster Munitions](#), which currently has 98 signatories and 14 ratifications and acceptances, and encourages its rapid entry into force.

Guided by its inter-agency policy, the [United Nations Mine Action Team](#), consisting of 14 departments, agencies, funds and programmes,³ and with observer entities, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of Legal Affairs and the [United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research](#), continued to ensure system-wide coherence in all mine action pillars and activities and a “One United Nations” approach with full respect for the individual roles and responsibilities and comparative advantage of each of

the Team members, through regular meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action at the principal and working levels. The United Nations strategic goal is to work in cooperation with national authorities, territories, non-State actors, affected communities, and in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), donors, the private sector, international and regional organizations and others to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, at which point United Nations mine action assistance will no longer be necessary. United Nations mine action activities are guided by four strategic objectives identified in the United Nations Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010: reduction of death and injury by at least 50 per cent; mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 per cent of the most seriously affected communities; integration of mine action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries; assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/explosive remnants of war threat, and at the same time prepare for residual response capacity in at least 15 countries.

“بارودی سرنگوں سے متعلق شعور اور مائنز ایکشن میں مدد کا عالمی دن” “04 اپریل”

زمین دوز سرنگیں اور جنگ کا بچا ہوا دھماکہ خیز مواد زندگیوں کو خطرے میں ڈالتے ہیں۔ اقوام متحدہ پہلے سے موجود قوانین کے فریم ورک کی عالمگیریت اور شہری آبادی کو ان اسلحہ جات سے بچاؤ کے لیے نئے عالمی معاہدات کے قیام کی وکالت کرتا ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ اس کام کو اپنی ممبر ریاستوں، سول سوسائٹی اور عالمی اداروں / تنظیموں کی مدد سے کرتا ہے۔ دھماکہ خیز سرنگوں سے متعلق شعور اور ایکشن میں مدد کا عالمی دن اقوام متحدہ کے سرنگوں اور جنگ کے بچے ہوئے دیگر سامان سے پاک دنیا کے عزم کا اعادہ کرتا ہے اور ریاستوں کی جانب سے ان ممالک کو، جہاں یہ ہتھیار سویلین آبادی کے تحفظ، صحت اور زندگیوں کو سنگین خطرہ لاحق کرتے ہیں، قومی مائنز ایکشن کے لیے صلاحیت پیدا کرنے کے لیے مسلسل جدوجہد کی دعوت دیتا ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی نے 2005 میں اپنی قرار داد نمبر A/RES/60/97 میں اس دن کو عالمی دن قرار دیا۔

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=KruKlv9ISiw>
<http://www.un.org/en/events/mineawarenessday>
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/unmas-landmine-erw-safety/id720063438?mt=8>
