

BACKGROUND NOTE

NATIONAL DIRECTORS DAY

Following the success of the first National Directors Day at last year's NDM-UN27, the second day of this year's NDM-UN28 will once again feature dedicated discussions between national directors on topics of interest, challenges, concerns, and best practices.

A brief introduction to the format of the National Directors Day will be made at the end of Plenary 3, including a reminder of the groups and locations for the breakout discussions. The format once again features national directors joining one of four pre-assigned sessions organized by language preferences – English, Arabic, and French.

The breakout groups will take place on Thursday 10 April from 15:00 – 17:30 and will be chaired by a national director who will moderate a discussion amongst fellow national directors based on topics and questions shared ahead of the NDM-UN28 meeting. Another national authority will be designated as Rapporteur who will report back to the full plenary on the outcomes of the group discussions. Both the Chair and Rapporteur will be assisted by Facilitators from amongst the UN and the GICHD.

The topics to be discussed by the breakout groups reflect priority issues raised by national directors in their replies to a survey in February 2025 and two separate consultations with national directors held at the end of February as part of the preparations for the NDM-UN28 meeting– *See the Annex for a full list of proposed topics and guiding questions.*

The aim of the smaller group discussions led by national authorities (i.e., breakout groups) is to encourage peer-to-peer exchanges on challenges and best practices and to decide on proposals or recommendations for how to better target support and assistance to address critical needs in a sustainable way. Each group, under the chair's guidance, will decide how to prioritize topics for discussion from the proposed topics shared before the NDM-UN28.

A rapporteur for each group will report back during Plenary 4 at 09:30 on Friday 11 April on their group's discussions. The national authority designated to be rapporteur is responsible for preparing a presentation that will include adding main points to PowerPoint slides on each topic discussed by the group.

Facilitators from the UN and GICHD will be present throughout the day to support the chair and rapporteur of each group when convening and managing breakout group discussions. Facilitators are responsible for supporting the rapporteur in finalizing the presentation.

Chairs, Rapporteurs, and Facilitators are kindly asked to meet with organizers and each other on Wednesday 9 April from 14:30 to 15:00 in room 9 (on second level of CICG) for a brief orientation session.

NOTE: Depending on availability, there will also be an online meeting scheduled before everyone's arrival to Geneva. This is being planned for Wednesday 2 April, time to be determined. More information to follow.

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Programme

Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 10:45 - Introduction (plenary room D, after plenary session 3)

10-minute introduction to "National Directors Day"
 Presenter/Chair: Ilene Cohn, UNMAS

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Thursday, 10 April 2025 from 15:00 to 17:30 - Breakout Groups (in designated rooms)

Breakout Group French in Room B

Chair: Papa Maguèye Diop, Director CNAMS, Senegal
Rapporteur: Lieutenant-colonel SAHGUI Djimon, Directeur du CPADD, Benin
Facilitators: Mr. Jeremy Repond, GICHD and Marie Dahan, UNDP

Proposed to include representatives from: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d' Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Benin

Breakout Group Arabic in Room C

Chair: Brigadier Mr. General Khalil El Shebli, Director, Libyan Mine Action Center, Libya
Rapporteur: Mr. Khalid Hamdan Adam, General Director, National Mine Action Center, Sudan
Facilitators: Mr. Jibril Kallas, GICHD and Ms. Fatma Zourrig, UNMAS Libya

Proposed to include representatives from: Algeria, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen

Breakout Group English I in Room E

Chair: Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director TNMAC, Tajikistan
Rapporteur: Mr. Meera Muhiadeen Nayeemudeen, Director NMAC, Sri Lanka
Facilitators: Ms. Minyoung Kim, UNDP and Ms. Tinatin Maurer-Shengelia, GICHD

Proposed to include representatives from: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Israel, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mexico, Myanmar, Palau, Philippines, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, Viet Nam, ARMAC

Breakout Group English II in Room F

Chair: Thailand [TBC}

Rapporteur: Mr. Cletus Maregere Zimbabwe

Facilitators: Ms. Rana Elias, GICHD and Ms. Gahyun Lee, UNDP

Proposed to include representatives from: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*****Other NDM-UN28 attendees may join breakout groups as observers*****

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Friday, 11 April 2024 from 09:30 to 10:45 – Report Back (in plenary room D)

Plenary Session 4: Report Back by National Director Rapporteurs

Chair: Mr. Steinar Essén, Global Advisor, UNDP

Presenters are Rapporteurs from each of the four breakout groups

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Format

Breakout Groups on Thursday 10 April from 15:00 to 17:30: (150 minutes)

Introductory remarks by the Chair and an agreement on the agenda and topics to be covered	10 minutes
Discussion by topic (approx. 40 minutes per topic)	120 minutes
Summary and concluding remarks by Chair (and possibly Rapporteur)	20 minutes

The Breakout Group discussions will be structured along three broad topics and guiding questions – See Annex – Discussions should follow Chatham House rules.

It is suggested that the Chair make introductory remarks, present an agenda, and get agreement on expectations and on the prioritized list of topics to be covered. On his/her first intervention, each participant will be asked to introduce him/herself briefly. Interventions should not be longer than four minutes. Larger delegations are asked to designate only two people to make interventions.

Chairs are encouraged to end discussions on time and include a summary of main outcomes as part of concluding remarks.

Guiding questions under each of the three main topics have been suggested to aid in making discussion more dynamic but these are by no means comprehensive. Each breakout group should feel free to explore each topic in a manner most relevant and suitable for the group.

During the breakout groups on Thursday afternoon there will be no presentations (i.e., PowerPoints) and national authorities are asked to make brief interventions of no more than four minutes. Delegations are kindly asked that no more than two representatives take the floor to speak during breakout group discussions.

Delegations are strongly encouraged to consider gender, diversity, and inclusion considerations when deciding their representation and participation in discussions.

NOTE: Other NDM-UN28 attendees may join breakout groups but are kindly asked to join as observers only.

Preparation for Report Back from 17:30 to 18:00 (room 9 on level 2 of CICG)

Discussion by topic and drafting of points (approx. 8 min per topic)	24 minutes
Summary and validation of main conclusions by Chair (and possibly Rapporteur) (2 min per topic)	6 minutes

The Chair, Rapporteur and Facilitators from each breakout group are kindly asked to immediately begin to prepare and draft the summary to be presented at the report back during the full plenary the next day.

Each group is expected to draft a summary of the main discussion points, identify any proposals or recommendations for follow-up, and by whom, and add these summary/proposals to a PowerPoint that will be used during the report back to the plenary on Friday morning. Organizers will provide a template for the PowerPoint to be used.

The Rapporteur for each group will present these during plenary session 4 and should lead jointly with the Chair in the drafting and preparation of the summary.

Preparation of the summary and drafting of the report back can begin as soon as the breakout discussions have ended, even if that is earlier than 17:30.

You are welcome to remain in the room where you held your breakout session or agree to go to the designated room for National Directors Day, room 9 on level 2 of the CICG and work from there.

Plenary 4: Report back on Breakout Groups from 09:30 to 10:45 in plenary room D (75 minutes)

Introductory remarks by the Chair	5 minutes
Presentation of topic 1 – Coordination and Cooperation (3 min x 4 groups = 12 minutes per topic) Q & A from the audience (8 min)	20 minutes
Presentation of topic 2 – Resource Mobilization (3 min x 4 groups = 12 minutes per topic) Q & A from the audience (8 min)	20 minutes
Presentation of topic 3 – Victim Assistance (3 min x 4 groups = 12 minutes per topic) Q & A from the audience (8 min)	20 minutes
Final comments from the audience and closing remarks by the Chair	10 minutes

The Chair of the plenary will make introductory remarks and introduce briefly the Presenters/Rapporteurs from each of the Breakout Groups. The Chair will explain that the presentations will be made according to each of the three main topics and include conclusions and recommendations from each breakout group.

The Chair will introduce each topic and ask each of the four Rapporteurs to give a **maximum 3-minute summary per topic** of the group discussion, conclusion and suggested action points on that topic.

After all four Rapporteurs have shared their reflections on all three topics, a general discussion will follow.

The session ends when all three topics have been presented and discussed, final general comments received from the audience and the chair has made final remarks.

Annex: Proposed List of Topics and Guiding Questions

NOTE: Topics covered in the plenary sessions will not be addressed in-depth during the breakout sessions.

1. Coordination and cooperation

Cooperation and coordination of efforts in mine action is crucial for effectively addressing the challenges posed by explosive ordnance. Collaboration enhances resource sharing, technical expertise, and best practices, leading to more efficient clearance operations and victim assistance programmes. By fostering partnerships across borders, affected states can collectively raise awareness, mobilize funding, and improve policy frameworks. Furthermore, regional cooperation promotes stability and security, as it helps build trust and encourages dialogue among countries affected by these debilitating remnants of conflict, ultimately contributing to peacebuilding efforts.

Guiding questions:

- What are examples of a successful regional or cross border or triangular cooperation/exchange of information?
- What are concrete areas where regional cooperation could improve quality and/or cost efficiency of your programme and approach?
- What are examples of how innovation in mine action has been enhanced through regional cooperation.
- What are comparable threats that can be addressed (more successfully) through regional cooperation?
- How can regional coordination and cooperation and partnerships be strengthened? What is needed and involving what/whom?
- What needs to be done to ensure that women are appropriately engaged to lead and to deliver on coordination and cooperation?
- How has coordination and cooperation assisted in meeting key challenges related to clearance? To information management? To advocacy? To other critical programmatic or operational priorities? What are the lessons to be drawn from these experiences?
- How has coordination and cooperation assisted in meeting national obligations?
 1. How can regional cooperation be funded?

2. Resource Mobilization

Securing adequate and sustainable funding and resources to implement comprehensive mine action programmes can be challenging, particularly in the current donor environment. Proactively engaging international donors, national governments, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector is more important than ever to bolster financial support and technical expertise. Additionally, fostering partnerships and advocacy efforts raises awareness about the urgent needs of explosive ordnance-affected

communities. The ability to demonstrate success stories, programme efficiencies, and sustainable progress are critical in an increasingly competitive environment.

Guiding questions:

- How can the mine action sector ensure that international cooperation and assistance supports sustainable approaches?
 1. What are the challenges and opportunities in securing national government budgets and support to mine action authorities?
- Mine action is often a prerequisite and “an enabler” for other humanitarian, development and peace activities, how can the sector ensure that funding of these activities integrate the cost of mine action?
- What examples are there of innovative approaches to mobilizing resources?
- What are successful approaches to mobilise resources for initiatives to promote gender and diversity, environmental considerations or other innovations?
- Which other funding streams exist and how can the mine action sector tap into these? Do you have examples of successful private-public partnerships?
- What can be done to promote mine action better and lead to more sustainable support (e.g. draw/retain media and donor interest)?

3. Victim assistance

Delivering continuous, long-term assistance to victims and survivors presents a significant challenge for national authorities. This encompasses essential services such as medical treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and economic support. Providing victims and survivors with the resources and opportunities they need is vital for enhancing resilience and elevating their overall quality of life.

Guiding questions:

- What should be the role of mine action national authorities in victim assistance?
- What are the challenges in supporting victims of explosive ordnance?
- What are some examples of how innovation has been used in victim assistance programmes?
- What metrics should be used to evaluate the effectiveness of victim assistance initiatives?
- How can victim assistance programmes be made more inclusive, particularly for marginalized groups?
- How can and do mine action authorities engage with other government offices and ministries in addressing victim assistance?
- How can international cooperation enhance the effectiveness of victim assistance programmes?