

## Seventy-ninth session of the Commission

**Bangkok, 15-19 May 2023**

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### Side-event: Mine Action for Sustainable Development

15 May 2023: 13:15-14:15 (GMT+7)

Meeting Room H, UNCC

#### Introduction

For decades, the existence of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERWs) as a result of protracted sequence of civil and regional conflicts has severely affected countries in the Asia and the Pacific, resulting in thousands of casualties and injuries every year, millions of internally displaced people and many more lives in danger. Within the region, 21 countries have been identified as the affected States, although extent of contamination varies across countries.<sup>1</sup> While efforts and commitments to clear landmines under Article 5 of the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) continue to be undertaken by countries and development partners, few countries are on track to fulfil their obligations under Article 5 due to political, geographical, financial, and capacity constraints.

Landmines undermine socio-economic development of the countries and livelihoods of people in local communities. They refrain people from access to farming and pastoral lands, housing, trading and other necessary infrastructures, presenting a great risk for local populations. They pose severe social consequences and considerable burdens on victims/survivors and their families, including expenses on long-term medical care, loss of employment, poverty, hunger, discrimination, and social stigma. The presence of mine contamination in agricultural lands and community environments also makes adapting to the negative impact of climate change largely difficult especially for the vulnerable groups in society.

These challenges around landmines have had a cross cutting impact, affecting not only the country's development but also its path towards achieving the SDGs as it hinders the economy from reaching its full potential. Against this background, mine-clearing efforts and continued endeavours to address economic, social and environmental consequences of landmines are key to pursuing recovery, building the confidence required to enable people to live safely and freely from constraints, and supporting inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

#### Objectives

The session aims to raise awareness to a broader audience of the challenges and issues of mine action and to engage in dialogue with experts and institutions on addressing the social and economic development impacts on communities and societies. The deliberations will also highlight the links between mine action and the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

#### Participants

Representatives of Asia and the Pacific, international and regional organizations, national entities, including non-governmental organizations, who are engaged in the activities related to mine action.

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<sup>1</sup> Those countries include Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. See Mine Action Review (2022). *Clearing the mines 2022*.

## Provisional Programme

### OPENING

13:15-13:20	Welcome remarks	H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
13:20-13:25	Key remarks	H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN
13:25-13:40	Presentation	H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President, Cambodian Mine Action & Victim Assistance Authority

### PANEL DISCUSSION –

	Moderator: Ms Alissar Chaker, Resident Representative UNDP Cambodia	
13:40-14:10	<p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Admiral Nuttapon Ketsumboon, Deputy Director General, Thailand Mine Action Centre</li> <li>• Ms. Emma Pearce, Disability Inclusion Consultant, Sensory Functions, Disability and Rehabilitation Unit, WHO</li> <li>• Ms. Debora Comini, Director, Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF</li> <li>• Dr Gemma Edgar, Development Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Bangkok</li> </ul>	<p>Government: (5 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the main challenges of the mine sector towards social (e.g., gender, environment) and economic (e.g., trade, economic empowerment, agriculture) development? How is government addressing these issues?</li> <li>2. To what extent is whole of government (or mainstreamed) approach taken to mine action in your country? Does the approach you take make it easier to find the synergies between mine action programming and the broader SDG agenda?</li> </ol> <p>WHO / UNICEF (10 min, 5 min each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What programmes should be prioritised to better align the work of government to the broader SDG frameworks and national plans e.g., education, youth, mainstream gender and disability.</li> <li>2. Is mine action a single agency concern within your DAF/similar? Does the approach you take focus on supporting the achievement of identified SDGs e.g., SDG 1, 3, 4?</li> </ol> <p>Development partner: (5 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can international support help cross-sectoral understanding of the mine sector and the 2030 Agenda?</li> <li>2. Is support to the broader SDG agenda an important consideration when making partnerships decisions? Do humanitarian and peace &amp; security factors also have weight in this decision making?</li> </ol> <p>UNDP (Moderator Key Takeaways) (5 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mine action as a pre-requisite to sustainable development and as an enabler for the SDGs.</li> </ol>

### CLOSING

14:10-14:15	Closing Remarks	H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President, Cambodian Mine Action & Victim Assistance Authority
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