



## CONCEPT NOTE

### United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting

#### *“Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion”*

**Date & Time:** Thursday, 12 December 2024, 4:30pm – 6:00pm

**Location:** Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters

**Format:** Two briefers; Security Council Members

**Chair :** Japan

#### **Introduction:**

Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017) highlighted mine action’s contribution to sustaining peace and security, humanitarian response, and socio-economic development. The Security Council has remained seized of the matter, calling for mine action in numerous peace operation mandates to protect civilians, humanitarians and peacekeepers from landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and improvised explosive devices (IED), to ensure the safe management of weapons and ammunition, and to strengthen national capacity to carry out mine action. The United Nations Secretary-General reports every other year on assistance in mine action and the subsequent General Assembly resolutions recognize the efforts of United Nations mine action to prevent and respond to the persistent threat posed by explosive ordnance, the increased use of IEDs—including by terrorists—and the impact of explosive weapons used in populated areas (see A/RES/78/70). The Arria-formula Meeting convened by Kenya in 2021 focused directly on the impact of IEDs on peace and security.

Parties to conflict and peacemakers in Colombia, Yemen and elsewhere in recent decades have incorporated the clearance of explosive ordnance in peace agreements, to allow safe passage for the return of displaced persons and enable the resumption of agriculture, the rebuilding of infrastructure and other economic activity essential to stability.

In the wake of the adoption of the Siem Reap Action Plan by 164 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the commitment made by United Nations Member States in the Pact for the Future to restrict or refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, two Security Council Open Debates and one Arria-formula Meeting on peacebuilding<sup>1</sup> convened since January 2023, and given the continuing

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1 - Open Debate on "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges" presided by Japan on January 26, 2024

- Open Debate on "Promoting Conflict Prevention - Empowering All Actors Including Women and Youth", presided by Japan on March 13, 2024

- Arria-formula Meeting on “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace through comprehensive approaches- Investment in People, including Empowerment of Women -” co-chaired by Japan, Guyana and Mozambique on January 22, 2024



relevance of Resolution 2365, this Arria-formula Meeting draws attention to the many recent and ongoing conflicts on the Security Council's agenda in which civilians are suffering the effects of landmines, ERW and IEDs and the support required by affected governments and populations, United Nations mine action entities and their partners.

### **Objectives and focus of the meeting:**

#### Briefers:

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations**, in his capacity as Chair of the Inter-agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, will speak on how the **UN Mine Action Service has exercised its coordination role in emergency response and the implementation of Security Council mandates, how other UN entities and civil society organizations have responded to requests for assistance from affected states, and what support is required** from the Security Council, affected governments, donors and other stakeholders to maximize the potential impact of UN mine action. (SCR 2365 OP 11,12)

**His Excellency KEO Chhea, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations**, will speak about **the success story of Cambodia's strategic perspective on mine action**. This includes **the major outcomes of the recent Fifth Review Conference** of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction under the presidency of Cambodia, **Cambodia's experience and knowledge from being a recipient to becoming a global leader in mine action, Cambodia's progress and achievements in the field of mine action, and Cambodia's role and coordination as both an affected state and a proactive contributor to global mine action efforts**.

Member States are encouraged to consider the following points in their statements:

1. **How has the inclusion of mine action in peace operations** advanced the goals of stabilization and peace sustainment? Are peace operations, including military components, adequately equipped, informed and trained to reduce the threat of landmines, ERW and IEDs?
2. **How are Member States, UN entities with mine action mandates and civil society supporting affected governments** to mitigate the threat posed to civilians by landmines, ERW and IEDs?
3. **How can Member States, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the United Nations Secretariat collaborate** to ensure that mine action is reflected from the earliest stages of planning through the drawdown and withdrawal phases of the peace operations, programming and budgeting for humanitarian responses, and early recovery initiatives, including the provision of



explosive ordnance risk education, non-technical survey and information management, and victim assistance?

4. In the context of mine action, **what measures are necessary to ensure women’s safe and active involvement**, especially in decision-making roles, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda?
5. **How can mine action programs better address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of children** in affected communities? What **psychological and social support systems are needed for children who are survivors of landmine incidents**, and how can these be integrated into mine action programs?

#### **Meeting programme:**

The meeting will be chaired by **H.E. Mr. YAMAZAKI Kazuyuki**, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations. Due to time constraints, remarks by each briefer will be limited to 7 minutes. Statements by UNSC Members will be limited to 4 minutes.

#### **Logistics:**

The meeting will take place in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 12 December 2024. The meeting will be webcast on UN Web TV. Interpretation services will be provided. The event can be attended in-person by Member States & NGOs with UN accreditation. Unfortunately, due to time restrictions, speakers will be limited to current members of the Security Council. Other Member States and Permanent Observers who wish to participate are welcome to send their statement in writing (via PDF) to [p-m-j@dn.mofa.jp](mailto:p-m-j@dn.mofa.jp) by Thursday, 12 December at 1:00 p.m. with the subject line “Mine Action UNSC Arria-formula Meeting”. Statements will be uploaded on the webpage of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations following the meeting.