



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Intersessional Meetings of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention
(20 – 22 June 2022)

4. Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva Office, UNMAS

Mr. President,¹ Excellencies,

On behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)², I would like to thank the Government of Yemen for presenting its extension request and commend Yemen for the strong national ownership clearly visible in the request.

Ten years ago, Yemen was on track to meet its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention by 2020. Since then, years of conflict have pushed back the goal of the mine-free Yemen by years, maybe decades.

Excellencies,

Yemen suffers from vast swathes of explosive ordnance contamination, a great part of which is yet to be systematically mapped. Contamination encompassed practically all types of explosive ordnance, including cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance from ground fighting, ubiquitous abandoned ordnance and, most pertinent to this Convention, large minefields, and *ad*

¹ H.E. Ambassador Alvaro Enrique Ayala Melendez, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP).

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.



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hoc mined areas, contaminated by both anti-personnel mines and mines of an improvised nature. These areas cover land as well as sea within territorial waters.

Mr. President,

In the northern part of the country, access remains a major impediment to putting in place a fully functioning mine action sector. In the southern part of the country, access has improved and visas are more readily available for international advisors. The Yemen Mine Action Coordination Centre has been established and a national strategy is under implementation.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is coordinating closely with other humanitarian actors in its role as Coordinator of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility of Yemen, a group established to improve the effectiveness of mine action. The members have appealed for USD 25 million through the humanitarian response plan to protect 5.3 million people through mine action. As of 1 June, they have received USD 8.8 million, a third of what is required.

Excellencies,

Predictable funding is crucial to complete the clearance objectives in Yemen. The United Nations calls on States Parties to scale-up such funding. Explosive ordnance contamination is a long-term problem in Yemen. It requires a massive and long-term commitment. The United Nations fully supports the extension request under Art. 5 presented by Yemen and stresses the importance of continued strong national ownership of the mine action sector in the country. The United Nations recommends that tangible measures are designed and implemented to build a strong and sustainable mine action sector that is able to meet the urgent needs of the population of Yemen.

Thank you.

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