

Effective Implementation for All: Gender and Diverse Needs in Practice

Moderator's remarks

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us from all corners of the world for this panel discussion on an important topic in the Oslo Action Plan, namely how to ensure *Effective Implementation of the Mine Ban Convention for All, by integrating Gender and Diverse needs in practice*.

My name is Hana Cervenka, I represent Norway on the Committee on Article 5 implementation, and together with my good colleagues from Chile, Colombia and Panama serve as gender focal point for the Mine Ban Convention this year. It is my pleasure to moderate our panel today. On behalf of the four focal points, welcome once again!

“We recognize that integrating a gender perspective and taking the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account in all aspects of mine action programming and Convention implementation is important to effectively protect all people from anti-personnel mines”.

These are the words we, the 164 States Parties of the Mine Ban Convention, agreed on in the Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World, at the Review Conference last year.

In the Oslo Action Plan, States Parties have agreed to take action to translate this recognition into practice through Action 3. This panel is all about helping States Parties take a step further – to find practical ways to integrate gender and diverse needs in all Convention implementation.

This is important, because when we succeed in taking gender and diverse needs into account - when we succeed in integrating these concerns into every part of our policy, planning and programming - we achieve the most targeted and most inclusive response. In short, we achieve better results.

So what does it mean in practice to integrate gender and diverse needs? What are the steps we as States Parties, operators or civil society can take in order to ensure a truly inclusive approach to mine action?

Today's panel will be about unpacking the concept, about learning from practical experience, and about sharing best practices and challenges in integrating gender and diverse needs into Convention implementation.

Today, practitioners from all corners of the world will share their experience in integrating gender and diverse needs into survey, clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance. We will hear from Colombia, Iraq, Cambodia, Uganda and from the UK based HALO Trust. I am sure some common lessons will emerge, while some lessons and challenges will be more specific to a particular region or country. Either way, I am confident that our panelist will give us valuable insights.

Let us now turn to our esteemed panel. It is a pleasure to welcome **Miguel Ceballos**, the High Commissioner for Peace in Office of the President of **Colombia** as our first speaker. As you know, Colombia is a very diverse country and we look forward to hearing about how you are working to target mine risk education and other mine action to that reality. Mr. Ceballos, the floor is yours.

--

Let us now turn our attention to very different context and move across the globe to **Iraq**. I am very pleased to introduce **Gona Hassan**, who is Community liaison Supervisor for the Mines Advisory Group's Iraq Programme. Gona, we look forward to hearing how MAG works to integrate gender and diverse needs, and not least to hear more about what role the community liaison function plays in this regards. The floors it yours.

--

For our next speaker, we will turn to **Cambodia**, a country that has developed a Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan. I am pleased to introduce our next speaker, Her Excellency **Sreng Sorphea**, the Deputy Secretary General of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority and the Head of the Gender Team. She will share with us Cambodia's experience in integrating gender into national policy and how they are working to ensure that the policy is translated into practical programme implementation. The floor is yours.

--

Let us now move to a different context. Uganda has been mine-free since 2012 – a wonderful achievement. But as we know, even after all mines have been cleared, assistance to victims of landmines will be an important task for many years to come. I am pleased to introduce our next speaker, **Agnes Nampeera**, who is Senior Rehabilitation Officer and National CBR Coordinator at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda. She will share

with us Uganda's experience of integrating gender into victim assistance. The floor is yours.

--

We have now heard lessons and challenges from four different contexts. Our final speaker may help us take a bird's eye on how to integrate gender and diverse needs into mine action. I am pleased to introduce **Jasmine Dann**, who is Policy and Advocacy Manager at the **HALO Trust** and also a member of the informal Gender Working Group. She will share her thoughts and experience on what works, what donors can do to support gender mainstreaming and maybe even share some resources that are available to States Parties who want to improve their efforts to mainstream gender and diverse needs. The floor is yours.

--

Final remarks

I would like to sincerely thank all the panelists for sharing their experience with us today. A big thank you also to my co-focal points, namely Chile, Colombia and Panama for the cooperation in making this panel happen.

We are in the first year of implementing the Oslo Action Plan. It is now up to us – the States Parties, in cooperation with international organizations, operators and civil society - to implement the Oslo Action Plan – including its commitment to integrate gender and diverse needs into all our Convention implementation efforts. Today's panel has certainly helped identify many ideas and lessons for how to do so.

But today's panel is only the start of the conversation. We will meet again at the Meeting of States Parties later this year, and I hope we will continue this conversation there. We, the four gender focal points, are very pleased that gender has now moved from the side-event room to the main hall – although this time the main hall happens to be virtual.

In closing, let us redouble our efforts to ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered and inform all areas of Convention implementation and mine action programmes. That way our approach will not only be inclusive, it will also be more effective and contribute most efficiently toward the dual goals of a mine-free world and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you.