

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

19th Meeting of States Parties of the APMBC

15-19 November 2021

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education - EORE - Advisory Group.

Reflecting on the last year, States Parties and mine action operators continued to face numerous challenges in meeting the EORE-related commitments under point 9 of the Oslo Declaration and actions 28 to 32 of the Oslo Action Plan. Those challenges, while responsible for driving people physically apart, have also led to increased opportunities for interconnectedness, cooperation, partnerships and innovation within the EORE Sector, including engaging communities in new ways of communicating.

The use of digital technology – including social media; teaching and learning apps; virtual talking devices; SMS campaigns; targeted Facebook ads; live, online EORE sessions; and virtual reality – is allowing risk education messaging to reach a wide audience in a variety of interactive ways. Real-time mobile data collection and sharing will also enable more accurate and complete information regarding contamination, victims and accidents to allow tailoring EORE.

Moving forward, the EORE AG would like to advocate for several actions to further improve the implementation of risk education globally:

First, where applicable, national standards should be reviewed to ensure they are in-line with the amended IMAS 12.10 on EORE, which was released last December and provides the most substantial update of this standard since 2009. It has been translated into Russian, Arabic and French. In addition, the draft Technical Note on IED Risk Education may be considered, recognising that it is currently under review.

Second, greater accountability is needed to ensure that international commitments towards EORE are achieved. This includes improved and annually updated reporting of EORE in Article 7 transparency reports – including dedicated statements on risk education at meetings of the convention – and the inclusion of detailed and costed work plans for EORE in Article 5 extension requests.

Third, we would like to suggest that risk education is elevated to a stand-alone agenda item in the Convention's programme of work to allow States Parties to report adequately on actions #28-32.

We also encourage donors to promote the risk education pillar and continue to ensure appropriate funding is made available for EORE, and that funds for risk education are reported separately from clearance to enable resourcing to be tracked.

To support the ongoing efforts to improve the delivery of EORE, in the last year several sector-wide resources have been made available to support learning and encourage innovation. The first module of an "Introduction to EORE Essentials" online course is now available for anyone interested to know more about EORE, as well as recently published papers on "Measuring the Results of EORE" and "New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts". In addition, with support from Switzerland, the sector is organising a global workshop on Digital EORE this December. Finally, interested persons can find a resource library for practitioners in the context of COVID-19 on the EORE AG's website.

In closing, we would like to thank the Dutch presidency for championing innovation, capacity building and inclusivity across all pillars of mine action, as it is improving the sector's reach and increasing our effectiveness. The EORE AG is ready to support the incoming presidency, States Parties and Observer States to improve EORE practices and enact actions 28-32 in an effective manner that empowers local communities.

Thank you.