



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional Meetings | 17-20 June 2025
International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

Side Events

Tuesday, 17 June 2025

13:00 – 14:50

Innovations in Japanese Technologies for Humanitarian Mine Action: Digital Transformation of Land mine Operations using Big Data and AI, Dual Sensor "ALIS" and Minefield Excavation Technology Using Compressed Air as well as its Practices in Mine Affected States

Room E

NEC Corporation (Japan) and NEC Laboratories Europe GmbH, ALISys Co., Ltd, IOS. Inc, Government of Japan

The application of advanced and emerging technologies in mine action is one of the four core priorities of Japan's Presidency of the 22nd Meeting of States Parties. As States Parties accelerate efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention, this session will spotlight cutting-edge innovations that reduce human and material risks in landmine detection and clearance.

Participants will explore NEC's Humanitarian AI Platform, a proof-of-concept technology that enhances landmine area prediction and supports more efficient clearance planning; the Advanced Landmine Imaging System (ALIS), a dual-sensor tool combining metal detection and ground-penetrating radars enabling deminers to visualize buried threats with greater precision, including examples of its use in Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, and Ukraine; and the Demining Robot (DMR), developed by IOS Inc., a breakthrough to protect deminers and expedite operations through using compressed air to safely uncover mines from a distance. Tested in Cambodia and newly deployed in Ukraine, this remote-controlled solution is reshaping the frontline of humanitarian demining. Together, these technologies offer promising pathways for a safer, faster, and smarter response to explosive contamination in affected communities. NEC Corporation: grd@iog.jp.nec.com, ALISys Co., Ltd: motoyuki.sato.b3@tohoku.ac.jp, IOS. Inc: info@ios-robot.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87865447404?pwd=j8Q9ppH1Zb4UY5YLc8o3jT5BEc62ov.1>

Meeting ID: 878 6544 7404, Passcode: IM2025

Lessons learnt from the EU-funded project supporting the Implementation of the AP Mine Ban Convention and an overview of the new 2025-2029 project

Room F

European Union and AP Mine Ban Convention ISU

March 2025 marked the end of the European Union's four-year project supporting implementation of the Convention and Oslo Action Plan. The briefing will provide information on the impact of the project and challenges found as well as a view on the new multiyear project to support the implementation of the newly-adopted Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan. Panellists include the EU Delegation, ISU Director, Zimbabwe, and a representative of a Pacific Island Country.

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Meeting ID: 819 7955 6022, Passcode: IM2025

Tuesday, 17 June 2025

13:00 – 14:50

Strengthening Victim Assistance in the occupied Palestinian territory

Room 3

Danish Refugee Council, Humanity & Inclusion, Permanent Mission of Denmark in Geneva

This side event will highlight critical gaps in victim assistance for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), and advocate for strengthened support and inclusive programming. As the use of explosive ordnance and explosive weapons in populated areas continues to cause civilian harm, the urgent needs of survivors — including physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and socioeconomic inclusion — demand coordinated and sustained attention.

The session will raise awareness of the evolving humanitarian context and share key messages developed by the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group for the oPt. It will also provide a platform for stakeholders to engage with priority advocacy asks and identify opportunities to enhance victim assistance efforts in line with the Convention and other relevant frameworks.

Through survivor-centered dialogue the event seeks to mobilize political will, technical cooperation, and donor support to ensure no one is left behind.

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Interpretation: EN/AR

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84563983910?pwd=hatv6np05fh0abxZMqlq2azwpY3tg7.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6398 3910, Passcode: IM2025

Civilian Harm from Anti-Personnel Landmines

Room 4

ICBL Landmine Monitor with Handicap International and Human Rights Watch

This side event will present new research from leading civil society members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines on recent civilian harm from antipersonnel landmines. Human Rights Watch will present the landmine use findings from its new report “Hunted From Above: Russia’s Use of Drones to Attack Civilians in Kherson, Ukraine.” Humanity & Inclusion will address the impact of antipersonnel landmines on civilians in Syria and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa. Landmine Monitor will reflect on recent findings and trends on the human toll of these indiscriminate weapons, including in underreported contexts. The event will also consider how this evidence can strengthen advocacy, inform policy, and support survivor-centered responses under the Convention, thereby upholding the promise of a mine-free world.

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Meeting ID: 836 3598 3714, Passcode: IM2025

Wednesday, 18 June 2025

13:00 – 14:50

L'usage des nouvelles technologies dans la formation au déminage / Emerging Technologies in Demining Training

Room E

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ministry of the Armed Forces, Permanent Mission of France in Geneva

Présentation de l'usage des nouvelles technologies dans les activités de formation en matière de déminage, au travers de plusieurs cas illustratifs :

- présentation du pôle interarmée de Traitement du danger des munitions et explosifs (PIAM) de l'école militaire du Génie d'Angers et des innovations technologiques en matière de fabrication de mines pour mener à bien les activités de formation ;
- présentation des travaux menés par le GICHD ;
- présentation des travaux menés par le secrétariat de la convention d'Ottawa pour avancer sur cette thématique.

Presentation of the use of new technologies in mine clearance training activities, through several illustrative cases:

- presentation of the French Explosive Ordnance Warfare centre - PIAM (department of the army engineering school of Angers, Ministry of the Armed Forces) and technological innovations in mine manufacturing to carry out training activities;
- presentation of the work carried out by the GICHD;
- presentation of the work carried out by the Ottawa Convention Secretariat to advance this issue.

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Interpretation: FR/EN

Clearing the Path Home: Humanitarian Mine Action as an Enabler of Safe and Dignified Returns in the Middle East

Room F

Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, and The HALO Trust

This side event will explore the critical role of humanitarian mine action (HMA) in enabling safe, voluntary, and dignified returns for displaced populations in the Middle East. Drawing on operational experience from across the region, HMA operators and relevant partners (tbc) will share their perspectives on addressing explosive ordnance contamination in complex post-conflict environments. The session will highlight key operational challenges, reflect on lessons learned, and emphasise the centrality of survey, clearance, and risk education in supporting communities to return home, rebuild their lives, and contribute to long-term recovery and reconstruction. Countries in the Middle East have experienced decades of population displacement driven by armed conflict and insecurity. Explosive ordnance contamination has compounded humanitarian needs, posing a serious threat to people on the move, particularly those returning to areas of origin. In 2024, the MENA region was home to more than 16 million forcibly displaced persons, the majority of whom are internally displaced. As people return, incidents involving landmines and other explosive ordnance often increase, underscoring the urgent need for clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) as foundational components of recovery efforts.

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13:00 – 14:50

Informal exchange – building synergies and identifying practical measures to strengthen transparency reporting

Room 3

Permanent Mission of Australia in Geneva

Transparency reporting promotes cooperation, and builds trust and confidence, among States Parties on conventional arms control practices. Australia, as Transparency Measures Coordinator under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), is exploring ideas to improve transparency reporting rates and build synergies across conventional arms control frameworks. We invite States to share ideas on practical measures, synergies and lessons learned on reporting under the CCM, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and other relevant arms control instruments.

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Thursday, 19 June 2025

13:00 – 14:50

**Backsliding on Humanity: What Treaty Withdrawals Mean for Global Humanitarian Norms
Room E**

Norwegian People's Aid, International Campaign to Ban Landmines

In today's context of rising geopolitical tensions, the norms of IHL are under increasing pressure and the rules-based world order is being undermined. The global principles and norms governing IHL and supporting the humanitarian imperative are challenged by five States Parties taking steps towards or withdrawing from key treaties aimed at protecting civilians from the devastating impacts of indiscriminate weapons. Justification for withdrawing from the Convention and returning to the use of anti-personnel mines contradicts historical evidence of their negligible military utility and the devastating and long-term humanitarian impacts. This evidence was extensively deliberated and conclusions drawn at the time the Convention was negotiated. Withdrawing states and their supporters claim that a conflict in Europe warrants exceptional treatment, suggesting a double standard in IHL application. This trend should be of grave concern and highlights the need to revisit the foundational evidence that underpins the Convention. This side event will underscore the enduring relevance of the Convention as a cornerstone of IHL, civilian protection, and effective humanitarian action. It will revisit the humanitarian imperative behind its adoption and recall the significant progress achieved over past decades. It will also critically examine claims regarding the military utility of AP mines and the purported "humanitarian benefits" of non-persistent AP mines in light of the realities of modern warfare and contemporary geopolitical challenges. Through a roundtable discussion with specialists from diverse sectors, the session will highlight the Convention's relevance in today's security environment—and demonstrate why defending the treaty is more vital than ever.

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**The Mine Action Situation in Syria: Lessons on the Devastating Impact of Antipersonnel Mines
and the Enduring Importance of the Mine Ban Treaty**

Room F

The White Helmets (Syria)

This side event will explore the critical mine action situation in Syria, a country emerging from over a decade of conflict marked by widespread contamination from landmines and explosive remnants of war. Syria's complex experience offers urgent lessons on the long-term humanitarian consequences of antipersonnel mines and the critical need for sustained clearance, risk education, and victim assistance. The discussion will highlight how Syria's case reinforces the enduring relevance of the Convention and the importance of collective international commitment to addressing the global landmine threat. As contamination continues to endanger lives and hinder recovery, the growing need to scale up mine action in Syria will be a central focus. The panel will bring together national and international mine action organizations working on the ground, alongside the Minister of Emergencies and Disasters Management, under which the Mine Action Centre will be established, to offer a government perspective on current challenges and opportunities. By drawing on field-based insights and operational realities, this session will amplify the call for comprehensive, coordinated responses in one of the world's most severely affected contexts.

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Friday, 20 June 2025

13:00 – 14:50

Sri Lanka's Path to Completion: Good Practice and Lessons Learnt

Room E

Sri Lanka National Mine Action Centre, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

This side event will present Sri Lanka's progress toward fulfilling its Article 5 obligations through the implementation of its National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2023–2027. Anchored in national ownership and supported by international cooperation, Sri Lanka's approach offers valuable insights into how states can responsibly and transparently bring mine clearance to a successful close.

Since 2023, the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), in partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and clearance operators, has developed and implemented a standardized completion survey. Grounded in a clear process map and formalised through national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the survey involves structured engagement with local authorities and communities at the smallest administrative level to confirm the absence of any remaining suspicion of mine contamination. This methodology enables the Government of Sri Lanka to declare administrative areas "mine free" with confidence, demonstrating that all reasonable efforts have been made to identify and clear mined areas.

The event will highlight the critical role of a tailored information management system, inclusive planning processes, and transparent reporting in strengthening national accountability and strategic decision-making. Lessons learned from Sri Lanka's transition planning and residual risk management will also be shared with a view to informing other mine-affected countries approaching completion.

Panelists will include representatives from Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, NMAC, GICHD, implementing partners, and an international donor.

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Programme of Exhibitions

Tuesday, 17 June 2025 - Friday, 20 June 2025

Exhibit

Japan

Japanese private companies (ALISys and IOS) will explain the operational situation and usage guidelines through their actual equipment, videos, and pamphlets.