



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action

Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

(22-24 May 2019)

Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance

Mr. President,¹

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), comprising the United Nations entities² involved in mine action. The United Nations congratulates you for your energetic and result driven leadership, and will continue to contribute substantive inputs to the review process.

Excellencies,

For the past year, we identified the main challenges facing victim assistance: increasing number of casualties, weak data collection, lack of resources, and lack of access to health and rehabilitation services especially in remote areas. Despite best efforts to integrate victim assistance into broader humanitarian, development and human rights efforts, many victims, direct and indirect, do not receive adequate support and many victims, too many, do not get a chance at surviving the accident.

¹ H.E. Hans Brattskar, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations.

² The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) / United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) (Chair), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (Observer), and the World Bank (Observer).



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The United Nations urges States Parties to prioritise sustainable victim assistance in dedicating strong language on this issue in the forthcoming Oslo Plan of Action. On its side, the United Nations has a dedicated UN policy on Victim Assistance (2016), and has set in the 2019-2023 United Nations Strategy a high priority strategic outcome number two on the provision of assistance to “survivors, family members and affected communities affected by explosive ordnance for equal access to health and education and full participation in social and economic life”.

The United Nations, governments and civil society must enforce the “leave no one behind” principle. It is in this spirit that, on April 4, the United Nations Secretary-General launched a five-year public campaign called “Safe Ground”. I invite you to watch a message from the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards, Mr. Daniel Craig on *Safe Ground*.

[[Safe Ground Campaign video message](#)]

I invite you all to join this campaign and reaffirm our collective determination to save lives and meet the needs of survivors, families of people injured and killed and affected communities. Thank you.