



## **Concept Note for Side Event**

### **Title: De-mine for Development**

#### **Date:**

31 October 2024 or 1 November 2024, Geneva

#### **Organized by:**

International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) in Partnership with the International Institute for Rights and Development (IRDG) and “Roots of Peace”.

#### **Discussed by:**

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Geneva Branch, UNEP, FSD (Fondation suisse de déminage), The Cluster Munition Coalition, AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, WTO, ICAN, Geneva Call, The Hepatitis Fund.

#### **Context:**

This side event at the 2024 Social Forum will highlight the urgent need to tackle the global crisis caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). These remnants continue to harm human rights, hinder development, and block economic recovery, especially in developing and post-conflict countries.

Landmines are a financial strain on many states, costing \$3 to \$75 to produce while removing them safely can cost \$300 to \$1,000 per mine. Over 70 countries are affected by landmine contamination, which slows down economic development and harms regional economies. Clearing landmines costs millions of dollars, creating a heavy financial burden for post-conflict and developing countries. Besides causing casualties and long-term humanitarian problems, landmines prevent access to land needed for farming, building, and essential services like food, water, and healthcare.

Developing countries often lack the resources to deal with these challenges, which slows economic progress and development. Addressing the impact of landmines is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The side event will focus on "The Contribution of Financing for Development to Advancing Human Rights for All," and will highlight the urgent need to tackle the financial challenges worsened by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

#### **Objectives:**

- **Promotion of a Mine-free World and Right to Development:** Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War pose significant barriers to economic progress and sustained development, especially for developing countries. Emphasizing the necessity of a Mine-free world and the inclusion of the 18 SDGs as a fundamental step toward achieving the right to development.

- **Financing for Development in Mine Action:** The event will Highlight the effect of mine action, not only to eliminate the security threat but also to free up resources for community development and poverty alleviation, particularly in vulnerable communities and post-conflict regions.

- **Support Inclusive Partnerships for Mine Action:** This event aims to foster collaboration between international organizations, governments, NGOs, and affected communities to advance mine action and the urgent need for targeted support and transformative strategies to ensure just and equitable progress for all.

#### Key Themes:

- **Comparative analysis of the impact of landmines on the realization of Human Rights:** Through comparisons between different countries affected by landmines in Africa, Europe, the Caucasus, and Asia, present an objective assessment of the impact on vulnerable groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, displaced populations.
- **Empowering Humanity: Leveraging Development Financing to Ensure Universal Human Rights and Inclusive Growth:** The event will bring an opportunity to emphasize the connection between financing strategies and the universal realization of human rights, highlighting the role of adequate financial support and favorable economic conditions in driving inclusive, sustainable development for all people.
- **Integrating Mine Action into Human Rights, Sustainable Development, and Human Security Agenda:** By adopting Mine Action as a dedicated SDG to promote peacebuilding, human rights, and sustainable development, this initiative will demonstrate how the proposed SDG 18 can bridge the gap between humanitarian mine action and broader economic development.

#### Format:

The side event will consist of a series of speeches (from panelists in the room and recorded), short videos, and interaction with the participants. It will include presentations of case studies and success stories to illustrate the impact of mine action in building resilient communities.

#### Suggested speakers:

- Umud Mirzayev, President, International Eurasia Press Fund, Azerbaijan
- Mine Action Agency of The Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA), (TBC)
- Heidi Kühn, Founder and CEO of “Roots of Peace”, Winner of the World Food Prize 2023 (online from San Francisco, USA)
- Nidal Salim, Director and founder of Global Institute for Water Environment and Health, GIWEH
- Juan Carlos Ruan, Director, AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit (TBC)
- Kasia Derlicka, International Campaign to Ban Landmines - ICBL
- Melissa Parke, Executive Director, ICAN, Geneva
- Ulla KASK, Counselor Agriculture and Commodities Division (World Trade Organization)
- Wondwosen (Wondy) Asnake KIBRET, Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, UNEP Regional, Geneva
- Angela De Santis, Deputy Head of Operations, Fondation Suisse De Déminage (FSD)
- Representatives from countries with experience in humanitarian demining (e.g., Angola, Mozambique, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Ukraine)
- **Moderator:** David Chikvaidze, Vice President, Swiss Forum on International Affairs.