



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 46

Assistance in mine action

### Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2023

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(Fourth Committee) (A/78/417, para. 8)*]

#### 78/70. Assistance in mine action

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 76/74 of 9 December 2021 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

*Recalling also* all relevant treaties and conventions<sup>1</sup> and their review processes,

*Noting with appreciation* the extent to which the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action continues to be commemorated worldwide,

*Noting* all relevant United Nations resolutions that take into account the humanitarian aspects of assistance in mine action,

*Reaffirming its deep concern* at the grave humanitarian and development impact of mines and explosive remnants of war,<sup>2</sup> in affected countries, which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for their civilian populations, including refugees and other displaced persons returning to their homes, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, and which hinder the access of people in need to humanitarian assistance and the achievement of sustainable development and inhibit peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts,

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<sup>1</sup> These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts 1977 (Protocol I); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> As defined by Protocol V to the 1980 Convention.



*Noting with appreciation* the resilience shown by the mine action sector in the face of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the continuous use of innovative methods, such as virtual training platforms or merging health campaigns and risk education messages, which has allowed for safety and security training and risk education to continue to be delivered to affected communities and international, national and local personnel operating in high-risk areas,

*Deeply concerned* that children continue to be disproportionately affected by mines and explosive remnants of war in conflict and post-conflict situations,

*Bearing in mind* the serious humanitarian risk that mines and explosive remnants of war pose, in affected countries, to the safety, health and lives of populations, including local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation, reconstruction and mine clearance programmes and operations,

*Deeply concerned* by the increasing threat of improvised explosive devices to civilian populations, humanitarian personnel, United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers, and national defence and security forces,

*Strongly condemning* all acts of violence, including direct attacks, against humanitarian mine action personnel and facilities and their means of transport and equipment,

*Emphasizing* the increased necessity and urgency of strengthening mine action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the risk and the humanitarian impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on civilians as soon as possible and to facilitating the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

*Recognizing* the continued progress made through a comprehensive approach to mine action, including assessing, surveying and clearing mines and explosive remnants of war, providing risk education to affected populations and supporting victims,

*Noting* that, for the purposes of the implementation of the present resolution, improvised explosive devices meeting the definition of mines, booby traps or other devices fall under the scope of mine action when their clearance is undertaken for humanitarian purposes and in areas where major active hostilities have ceased,

*Recognizing* that, in addition to the primary role of Member States, the United Nations plays a significant role in the field of assistance in mine action, in particular through the implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023 by members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,<sup>3</sup> chaired by the Mine Action Service at the working level,

*Considering* mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development activities, and noting the

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<sup>3</sup> Consisting of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the World Bank are observers.

integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandated by the Security Council,

*Recognizing the contribution of mine action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup>*

*Noting the important role of mine action in reducing the human cost of weapons and, in this regard, the importance of including mine action in the discussions to be led by Member States on A New Agenda for Peace, in follow-up to the policy brief presented by the Secretary-General in July 2023,<sup>5</sup>*

*Noting also that mine action contributes to the realization of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including through enabling their safe return and sustainable reintegration,*

*Noting further the relevance of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy launched by the Secretary-General in June 2019 to bring about lasting change on disability inclusion across the United Nations system, in particular by ensuring, through advocacy and technical assistance, equal access for all persons with disabilities, including victims of mines and explosive ordnance,*

*Noting the establishment of a United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations,*

*Noting with satisfaction that humanitarian appeals increasingly include mine action, where relevant, and underlining the importance of considering mine action during the earliest stages of planning and programming, where appropriate, in humanitarian emergency responses,<sup>6</sup> in accordance with the humanitarian principles,*

*Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action in cooperating and coordinating with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders and the strengthening of United Nations coordination at the global level through the mine action area of responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster, and encouraging further enhancement of that cooperation,*

*Recognizing the importance of the full involvement and equal opportunities for participation of both women and men in mine action programmes and of gender- and age-appropriate and disability-inclusive perspective in mine action programmes,*

*Recognizing also the valuable mine action efforts of national, regional and international mine action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, and also experts from relevant non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, enabling local communities and survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods, including by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,*

*Noting with appreciation national, regional and subregional efforts, including the ongoing development by the African Union of a strategic framework on mine action, as well as other relevant regional mine action strategies,*

*Taking note of the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action, which highlights the significance of integrating victim assistance efforts into broader*

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<sup>4</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>5</sup> A/77/CRP.1/Add.8.

<sup>6</sup> Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council, reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance and reaffirming further the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and disasters to promote and fully respect these principles.

national and international frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>7</sup> as well as the importance of sustained services and support to victims of mines and explosive remnants of war,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023, including its reinforced monitoring and evaluation mechanism, emphasizing the importance of using evaluation to inform the future direction of mine action within the United Nations, including the role and function of the Mine Action Service, and encouraging the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to continue their work to improve the impact of the United Nations in the field of mine action,

*Noting* the coordination efforts under the informal donor information-sharing forum known as the Mine Action Support Group, which endeavours to coordinate the humanitarian mine action programmes of donor States, harmonizing the prioritization of their respective mine action programmes and increasing donor support for mine action where it is most needed,

*Noting with appreciation* the role of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group, which is co-chaired by the United Nations Children's Fund and a rotating non-governmental organization and comprises 15 leading organizations in the mine action sector and which was formed to steer risk education efforts and to promote the use of robust behaviour change strategies to systematically protect affected populations from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war,

*Noting* the discussions on the issue of improvised explosive devices of the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II), to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>8</sup> and on the technical annex to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)<sup>9</sup> to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,<sup>10</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>11</sup> including the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to comply with their respective international obligations related to mine action;

3. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of Member States, including through South-South, regional and subregional cooperation, bearing in mind the need to ensure national ownership, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, upon request and as appropriate and in coordination with the affected country, to foster the establishment and development of national mine action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local civilian population, or an impediment to land cultivation and local resilience, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as social and economic development and peacebuilding efforts at the national and local levels;

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., vol. 2048, No. 22495.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., vol. 1342, No. 22495.

<sup>11</sup> A/78/259.

4. *Urges* all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine- and explosive remnants of war-affected States, upon request and as appropriate, by providing:

(a) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine action capacities, including in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries and the implementation of national mine action strategies and plans;

(b) Support for national and, where and as appropriate, local programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men, and the negative implications related to extreme weather events and climate change;

(c) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine action;

(d) Necessary information and technical, financial and material training and assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(e) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war, and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine action techniques and technologies that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

5. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards or national standards compliant with those Standards, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of reporting information as well as of using state-of-the-art technologies and an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help to facilitate mine action activities;

6. *Notes* the continued update of the International Mine Action Standards, and encourages the Mine Action Service to continue its efforts in this regard;

7. *Urges* all mine- and explosive remnants of war-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

8. *Encourages* mine- and explosive remnants of war-affected States, with support from relevant United Nations agencies and development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action, including victim and survivor assistance requirements and their linkage with health care, including mental health and psychosocial support and disabilities agendas, into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action, including victim assistance requirements, is funded in a predictable and sustainable manner;

9. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their peacebuilding, humanitarian, stabilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction, peace sustainment, climate, food security and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender- and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities and to take into account the rights and the specific needs of persons with disabilities;

10. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine action programmes take into account risk education, the rights, specific needs and requirements of victims and persons with disabilities, that they are gender- and age-sensitive and disability-inclusive so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and also take into account the specific needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, including women, in the programming of mine action;

11. *Encourages* the inclusion of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, in mine action national plans and strategies in the spirit of “leaving no one behind” and in order to mobilize solutions and reach social cohesion among the populations of countries affected by conflict;

12. *Urges* States to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, as well as support to families and communities, taking into account the rights and specific needs of victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, including persons with disabilities, and to take measures to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law;

13. *Encourages* States to support victims’ and survivors’ access to appropriate medical care, including mental health and psychosocial support, physical and sensory rehabilitation, education and skills training and income-earning opportunities, and to provide those services to all, while integrating a gender perspective, with respect for international law, including international humanitarian law;

14. *Encourages* a focus on the localization of mine action, including through local capacity development, bearing in mind relevant international and national frameworks, in order to ensure that sustainable and tailored mine action benefits for affected communities continue;

15. *Encourages* the provision of capacity-building assistance to affected countries in order to integrate assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on health care, social services and disability-inclusive development by relevant United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other entities with expertise in those matters;

16. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action and of devoting existing resources to that end, as appropriate, emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, and also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations, with the Mine Action Service as the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, the mine action area of responsibility and other relevant organizations in that regard;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to take measures to improve coordination, efficiency, transparency and accountability, in particular by implementing the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2019–2023 and

completing deliberations on the next United Nations Strategy and monitoring and evaluation framework;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the continued partnership and cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, to mitigate the risk to civilians from mines and explosive remnants of war, including through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and other joint initiatives, and encourages in this regard the establishment of partnerships with regional, national and local organizations, as appropriate;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, in ceasefire and peace agreements, when appropriate, as well as in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate, in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace- and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned and in view of the ongoing dangers faced by United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers, and host populations;

20. *Encourages* those Member States and organizations in a position to do so to support measures by all relevant actors aimed at improving rapid response capacity in humanitarian emergencies, as well as transparency and accountability;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Assistance in mine action”.

45th plenary meeting  
7 December 2023