



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention 2020 Intersessional Meeting

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Panel Discussion: Effective Implementation for All – Gender and Diverse Needs in Practice

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Check Against Delivery

Today, I'm speaking as co-lead of the Gender Working Group alongside MAG and including the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, DCA, GICHD, HI, ICBL-CMC, Mines Action Canada, Mine Action Review, and NPA.

We had the pleasure of working alongside Norway as last year's Presidency to work to see gender and diversity mainstreamed within the OAP. I think we can all agree that it sets a new standard for multilateral disarmament agreements. We're also setting new ground here today by including gender in the main agenda and not only within side events. I hope that's something that becomes standard and that we'll see in future meetings as well.

I want to talk before I begin on why gender is so important within the Convention's work. I know many of us know this already, but to highlight before we continue.

1. Within international mine action, clearance and survey in particular cannot be conducted effectively without full and inclusive consultations with the affected communities. Without consultation with all groups, mine action runs the risk of missing important contamination posing a grave risk to many groups within an affected community.
2. Secondly, mine action is a major employer. If the ultimate aim of mine action is safer, more prosperous communities, half of the population cannot be excluded. Employment in this sector can have a significant empowering effect, so who is employed matters.
3. Finally, within the Convention itself - who speaks matters and who is involved in decision-making matters. Representation and meaningful participation at the negotiation table are keystones of achieving Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. As a community, we should be working to realise this.

In addition to gender, the Oslo Action Plan also included **diverse needs**. So what do we mean by diverse needs? The AP recognises that the needs of people will change based on a series of factors and that programming should be adapted to meet those specific needs of different groups. This is important with gender but also other aspects of diversity.

Diversity refers to all of ways in which people differ, and how those differences might impact us. That includes religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability status and many other factors. This applies across mine action activities – so for example, it might include ensuring that mine risk education materials are available in all local languages, or it could mean meeting with people in different places or at different times in non-technical survey to ensure no group is left out.

We've heard a lot of very good examples from the panel here today on how many governments are taking this seriously.



Diversity also matters within the Convention. I'm happy to say it's not the case of this panel, but at times we see panels of all men and panels that only include white people from the global north. We need to acknowledge and improve on representation and meaningful participation in terms of both gender and diversity within these spaces.

I also want to touch on the role that donor governments can play in the implementation of the OAP. The job of implementing the Oslo Action Plan falls on all States Parties to the Convention and the role of governments providing financial assistance can be significant.

Firstly in choosing where that money goes – Donor governments have the opportunity to promote good practice in gender mainstreaming through what is asked for or required in proposals.

Donors can choose to support programmes that: ensure disaggregated data is collected and collected in an inclusive manner; that this is analysed from a gender perspective; and ensure that this information informs all stages of the programme cycle.

States in a position to do so should make a point to support programmes that promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and other underrepresented groups in mine action.

In reviewing proposals by mine action organisations, you have the opportunity to ask for more. Ask for dedicated gender budgets in funding streams, ask for strong mainstreaming, ask for dedicated actions related to gender, and ask for funded positions to see this all realised.

Donor governments can also work in partnership with affected states. States Parties with dedicated internal gender mainstreaming capacity can offer to support or even second their own Gender Advisers to support with providing specialist advice on gender mainstreaming and promoting women's participation.

In partnership with affected States, raise discussions of gender and diversity mainstreaming. Discuss what's being done or what more could be done. This applies to all States, not just donors. As we've heard today there are some really good examples of gender mainstreaming within affected states. And sharing those best practices in a practical way is a great way to help others along and begin to make progress that might be in a similar position.

In terms of reporting donor states should be reporting on measures taken to promote gender mainstreaming in mine action.

The OAP included both a specific action focusing on gender and diverse needs as well as mainstreaming throughout the action plan. These aren't things that have been traditionally reported on by many States in the past. However, the only way we will be able to measure progress towards the OAP is if we have clear data.

So where should gender considerations and diverse needs be included in Article 7 reporting?

In order to respond to the indicators within the action plan, States should be including information related to gender and diverse needs within forms D, G, H, and J. In order to be brief, I'll just provide one example. One of the indicators associated with Action #18 of the OAP refers to "the percentage



of affected States Parties who report having established their baseline through inclusive consultations with women, girls, boys, and men”.

In order to respond to this indicator, States should ensure that they are providing information on how consultations are taking place within Form D – Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines – are diverse teams involved in gathering data? Are consultations inclusive? Does that information then inform prioritisation? If this is something that is required within your national strategy, include that information in your response.

If States would like any advice on integrating gender and diverse needs into their Article 7 reporting, the Convention’s Gender Focal Points are very knowledgeable about how this can be done. States are also more than welcome to reach out to myself or another member of the Gender Working Group who can provide examples and guidance.

Finally, I want to touch briefly on resources for states looking to further gender mainstreaming. In every case, the specific actions that are taken will need to be tailored to the local context. However, as a good starting point, I’d encourage anyone who hasn’t already to make use of the the UN Gender Guidelines, recently updated in 2019 are available online. As well as free online e-training offered by GICHD on gender and diversity. Their website also includes links to more useful resources on mainstreaming gender and diversity in mine action.

Finally, one of the best ways we can learn and improve is to share our experiences with others. Get in contact with one of the States that you might have heard from today on the panel and see how you might be able to exchange information.

Thank you.