

Thematic discussion: Integrating gender into mine action 23 May

Women, girls, boys, and men often face different risks from explosive ordnance, have different needs if they become victims and they may have different priorities for which land should be prioritized for clearance. Recognizing these different risks, needs, and priorities, States Parties agreed to implement the Maputo Action Plan in a “gender-sensitive manner”. In the years passed since the Maputo Review Conference, the understanding and practice of integrating a gender perspective into programming, including other relevant diversity considerations, such as age and disability, in community liaison activities, such as non-technical survey and mine risk education, as well as in victim assistance activities, has significantly progressed in many fields. A new look at how and where gender can be integrated into all parts of mine action in practice is therefore warranted in advance of developing the Oslo Action Plan.

States Parties are encouraged to report on how gender and diversity are taken into account in their mine action programmes within their Article 7 transparency reports. Some states use this option, typically focusing on gender and age disaggregated data on casualties and victim assistance. However, there is a lack of reporting and it is therefore hard to identify progress and best practice within the Convention. Furthermore, other factors leading to vulnerability and exclusion, such as disability, are often neglected in data collection and there seems to be a gap when it comes to operationalization and utilization of disaggregated data to inform programme planning and prioritization.

At the same time humanitarian mine action NGOs are increasingly conducting gender analysis as part of their programme planning. Disaggregating data on beneficiaries and victims by sex and age is now standard sector practice in reports to donors and national authorities and the gender balance among employees in demining has changed significantly over the past years.

As one example of recent changes, the Mine Action Review, which has analysed and ranked the performance of national mine action programmes with regards to Article 5 implementation since the Maputo Review Conference, has added gender and diversity to its list of criteria starting this year.

Female representation at formal and informal meetings of States Parties to the APMBC remains the lowest within the conventional weapons community, consistently lower than 25% of delegates.

Format and purpose

The thematic discussions intend to inform and provide impetus towards the development of a strong Oslo Action Plan. Each thematic discussion will be chaired by the President and will rely on a panel of presenters to frame the issue from their perspective through short presentations. The floor will then be open for all participants to share their views and ideas for the development of the Oslo Action

Panelists

Gender working group (Roxana Bobolicu (MAG))

UN Women (TBC)

Mine Action Review (Lucy Pinches)

GICHD (Stefano Toscano)

Questions for discussion

- What practical measures could be taken to increase gender disaggregated data collection and reporting? And how do we ensure that gender disaggregated data informs programme planning and prioritization instead of just being a box we tick?
- How can the Convention facilitate exchange of best-practice and discuss challenges when it comes to integrating gender into mine action?
- How can we ensure that the linkages between gender and other factors leading to vulnerability and exclusion, such as disability and age, is fully addressed in data collection, activity implementation and reporting?
- How can we create mechanisms that would monitor progress towards improved mainstreaming of gender in mine action?
- How can links be drawn between gender in mine action and for example national action plans on women, peace and security or implementation of SDG5? How could such links ensure practical impact on mine action?