

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

EORE AG

**Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

16-20 November 2020

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to deliver the following statement on behalf of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is a group of over a dozen international NGOs and UN agencies that joined efforts mid-2019 to raise the global profile of risk education and strengthen this pillar of mine action. The Oslo Action Plan, and in particular its section VI on risk education and risk reduction, is an essential tool in the fulfilment of those aims.

Dear colleagues,

Allow me to start by commending States Parties for having strengthened their risk education commitments through point 9 of the Oslo Declaration and actions 28 to 32 of the Oslo Action Plan. These provide a clear recognition by States Parties of the vital importance of protecting civilians through the **delivery of effective, relevant and targeted risk education**, especially in contexts where land release efforts are slow or not yet possible. As stipulated in thoroughly revised draft IMAS 12.10, expected to be adopted in December, explosive ordnance risk education seeks to reduce risk of injury and death by both raising awareness of women, girls, boys and men in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs, and promoting behavioural change.

Over the past year, the risk education sector has been actively challenging itself to improve its practices. In this context, I would like to highlight **three elements** that the Advisory Group believes are key to turning the risk education actions of the Oslo Action Plan into reality but that still require more dedicated attention, time and resources:

First, efforts must be made to more systematically root risk education interventions in an **evidence based and robust context analysis** that includes ongoing casualty data collection and analysis. The analysis should be gender, diversity and disability sensitive. Too often, limited time and resources are dedicated to this part of mine action project

cycles thereby reducing the effectiveness of risk education efforts and their integration into other sectors, beyond mine action.

Second, practitioners are increasingly fostering **behaviour change approaches** to deepen the impact of their interventions. A behaviour change intervention is a coordinated set of activities designed to engage communities in order to change specified behaviour patterns. While such a process takes time to develop and scale up, risk education projects with a clear pathway for behaviour change have demonstrated that they have the potential to significantly improve their overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Third, as affected States Parties are challenged by ever more complex humanitarian environments and infectious disease outbreaks, there is a need to **systematise and accelerate knowledge sharing**. To do so, the Advisory Group encourages States Parties with risk education obligations to make **practical use of article 7 reports** to provide quantitative and qualitative information on progress made, share challenges encountered, exchange good risk education practices, and where necessary request international cooperation and assistance.

Similarly, States Parties and the wider EORE community would benefit from increased **timely and quality reporting** on specific risk education actions and their indicators through **statements at formal and informal meetings of the Convention**. The EORE Advisory Group also asked the ICBL to report again on risk education through its **Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor**. This request was taken up and we encourage everyone to read what the Monitor has to say about EORE.

Moving forward, let us work all together to improve risk education practices and turn #28-32 of the Oslo Action Plan into concrete and measurable actions and results that truly empower affected communities.

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

Let me conclude by reiterating the Advisory Group's commitment to continue supporting States Parties and Observer States in the implementation of their risk education commitments and efforts.

Thank you.