

# EORE AG

## Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

### Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

**Date:** 21 May 2019  
**Time:** 15:00 – 16:30  
**Location:** Conference Room, 6th floor, GICHD + virtual conference room  
**Chair:** Hugues Laurence (UNICEF)  
**Secretary:** Kaitlin Hodge (GICHD)

### Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
<b>Policy</b>		
Make list of priorities to be presented during thematic discussion at APMBC Intersessional Meeting + circulate to AG for comment	Hugues Laurence, Guy Rhodes & Kaitlin Hodge	21 May 2019
Separate meeting on presentation for thematic discussion at APMBC Intersessional Meeting	Hugues Laurence, Guy Rhodes, Elke Hottentot & Louis Maresca	21 May 2019
Draft and submit inputs to the Oslo Action Plan	Co-chairs and secretary	17 June 2019
<b>Activities</b>		
Make staff and documentation available for GICHD consultants undertaking an EORE Sector Mapping & Needs Analysis	All AG Members and Observers	On request
Share final report from EORE Workshop in the Context of the Syrian Refugee Crisis with AG members	Secretary	July 2019
<b>Standards</b>		
Share draft IMAS 12.10 revision with AG members for 'final check'	Hugues Laurence	July 2019
<b>Planning</b>		
Create 2019 calendar of events for relevant for EORE	Secretary	August 2019
<b>Structure and working procedures of the EORE AG</b>		
Revise DDG membership type and UNDP alternate contact on AG member list	Secretary	May 2019

Consider inviting ICBL-CMC to be a member	Co-chairs	May 2019
Revise TOR to clarify that voting is by majority	Secretary	May 2019
Consider how nomination and voting process will work going forward	Co-chairs	Next meeting of the EORE AG
Consider options for including donors in AG and make proposal to AG	Co-chairs	Next meeting of the EORE AG

## Participants

### Core members:

- DCA: Mette Krarup
- DDG: Richard MacCormac
- FSD: Matthew Wilson
- GICHD: Arianna Calza-Bini, Guy Rhodes
- HALO Trust: Matthew Todd, Camille Wallen (alternates)
- HI: Elke Hottentot (alternate)
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack
- NPA: Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke
- UNMAS: Bridget Forster

### Associate members:

- IOM: Erhan Vural (alternate)

### Observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca, Belinda Goslin
- Norwegian MFA: Hana Ryba Cervanka
- Independent Consultants: Steinar Essen, Rebecca Roberts

## Detailed Minutes

### 1. Welcome/Introduction

This meeting marked the official launch of the EORE AG. Following a welcome from GICHD Director of Operations Guy Rhodes, the Chair provided a brief introduction of the AG, the opportunities and challenges that it faces, and the commitment its members have made to improving the effectiveness of risk education.

Comments were also received on the membership list circulated prior to the meeting, namely that DDG should be a core member and the alternate contact for UNDP should be Owen Shumba **[action]**. It is also suggested that ICBL-CMC be considered for membership **[action]**.

### 2. NGO Co-Chair of the EORE AG

In addition to UNICEF, the EORE AG is to be co-chaired by an NGO representative on a rotating basis. A suggestion is made that there should be a rotation of the co-chair position amongst all core members until all NGOs have had a chance to serve a term by 2030. This is largely supported

but there should be space for flexibility based on capacities. Thus it is agreed that no NGO shall serve more than one consecutive term (term = period of 12 months) and, in principle, all core members should be open to serving as co-chair.

In advance of the meeting, two nominations for co-chair were received: from MAG and HI. Representatives from each organisation were given the floor to describe their motivations and qualifications. MAG's active engagement in preparations for the Oslo Review Conference and in the Landmine 2025 Campaign were emphasised, while HI stressed that they have doubled their capacity at HQ and could have a multiplier effect as they also Co-Chair the MA AoR. Both organisations have been active in risk education since the 1990s.

The decision is put to a vote, through which it is decided that Sebastian Kasack of MAG will be the Co-Chair for the next 12 months. HI is welcomed for nomination in future years.

It is suggested that in the future the candidates be invited to share their priorities in advance of the meeting and that more thought be given to how the voting process should work (e.g. through secret ballot, a process of propositions and secondments, etc.) **[action]**. The TOR for the AG should also be amended to clarify that voting is by *majority* (not consensus).

### 3. Oslo Review Process

Hana Ryba Cervanka of the Norwegian Mission in Geneva gave an overview of the process leading up to the Oslo Review Conference in November. Three documents are to be prepared:

- A **review document** on the status of the mine ban convention, for which the first deadline for inputs was in April. Those that provided input included the UN, GICHD, Landmine 2025 Campaign, Mine Action Review and a number of States Parties. This document focuses on identifying how the context has changed and what the remaining challenges are. It is not a negotiated document but rather will be presented by the Presidency. A first draft will be presented at this week's Intersessional Meeting, at which point suggestions are welcome if there are shortcomings in the text.
- An **action plan**, for which the deadline for inputs is 17 June, in order for a draft to be ready for discussion by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Committee in September. Once the draft is shared, anyone will be welcome to contribute and comment; several rounds of this are expected.
- A **political declaration** recommitting states parties to efforts needed to implement the action plan.

A day of thematic discussions has been planned during the Intersessionals to consider policy developments, during which there will be a dedicated session on risk education. Hugues Laurence, Guy Rhodes, Elke Hottentot (HI) and Louis Maresca (ICRC) have been asked to serve as panellists, making this a good opportunity for the AG to share its priorities. A first attempt should be made to list the main points that we wish to convey to States Parties about the priorities for the next five years **[action]**. This list should be circulated to the AG prior to the thematic session for comment and, once agreed, can form the basis for the AG's inputs to the Oslo Action Plan **[action]**. A meeting of the panelists should be held separately to plan the intervention **[action]**.

## 4. EORE Sector Mapping & Needs Analysis

Thanks to funding from Norway, the GICHD will have the capacity to support the AG with the hiring of two consultants for a mapping and needs analysis of the EORE sector. The main questions it aims to address are:

- What do we know already about the effectiveness of EORE methods, tools and approaches, and are there specific methods, tools or approaches that show particular promise for responding to current and emerging threats?
- What is the current status of EORE capacities, implementation and coordination, and what are the current and expected needs?

Arianna Calza-Bini (GICHD) presented the terms of reference for the analysis and introduced the consultants who will be undertaking the research: Rebecca Roberts and Steinar Essen. The analysis is designed as a rapid assessment (not an evaluation) spanning from May to July 2019. Members of the AG are requested to make their staff and documentation available for the consultants, who are working under a tight timeframe **[action]**.

It is noted that there is also ongoing research by GICHD consultant Ruth Bottomley on the role of community liaison for mine action including in urban environments, so it would be good to link these two projects.

## 5. EORE calendar for 2019

The Secretariat of the AG is responsible for maintaining a calendar of activities relevant to risk education for the coming year **[action]**. This global calendar should include major dates from other areas beyond mine action, including protection, global compacts, refugees and explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA). The AG should try to align itself so that it can contribute to these agendas and discussions.

Participants were asked to highlight key dates for 2019 that can be included (with the exception of the Oslo Review Conference and other convention meetings):

- **GPC Protection Conference (23-24 May)** and **MA AoR Retreat (22 May)** in Bangkok: risk education be front and centre in dedicated discussions at the MA AoR retreat. Participants often include those covering multiple areas – mine action and beyond – so it is a good opportunity to link with wider protection community.
- 2 UNICEF Courses: **“Effective Explosive Ordnance Risk Education” (23 Sept-2 Oct)** and **“Integrated Mine Action” (21-25 Oct)**, both in Spiez, Switzerland. The former is focused on adopting a results-based approach to risk education, while the latter promotes the integration of risk education together with other mine action pillars. Invitations will be sent in coming month, and each core member will be asked to nominate staff member(s) by end of July. Colleagues nominated may also include other organisations and associate members.
- **Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare (1-2 Oct)**: linked to question of how to provide EORE for people living in active conflicts. The main output will be a political declaration, for which the momentum is moving fast.
- An **ECOSOC side event (24 June)** in Geneva: led by Norway on children and armed conflict. Audience will not be mine action specialists, so will include explanation by Norway and UNICEF of the importance of the APMBC and risk education.

- Follow-up related to the Mine Action Data Sharing workshop that was held in Jordan in March 2019.

Other events can be shared with the AG Secretary to be included on the calendar.

## 6. EORE Essentials certification

UNICEF's Effective EORE course (above) remains the "gold standard" of training on risk education, but there is greater demand than able to be reached through this course in its current form. Guy Rhodes informed the EORE AG about the possibility of developing – contingent on funding – an online qualification course, "EORE Essentials," to provide a standard foundation for conducting risk education based on IMAS principles and good practice. It would draw on UNICEF's existing materials, as well as those of other partners, and help to provide increased confidence that the wide range of implementing partners are exposed to the same basic training (on the basis of which further training could be provided). Going forward, the GICHD welcomes further discussion within the AG on the sector's interest in such a training option.

## 7. EORE Donors

The GICHD has initiated a new project for the strengthening of the risk education pillar, which includes two dedicated positions in support of the EORE AG. Funding from Norway has been vital to the reestablishment of this AG by providing 1/3 of the budget for this project. Co-funding is now being sought to ensure the continued capacity to support this group beyond 2019. Guy Rhodes informed the AG that the GICHD will be approaching donors during the APMBC Intersessional Meeting to this end.

One of the suggestions made to attract more funds to the sector is to do better at linking risk education with trending issues in the agendas of donors, such as an increasing focus on including persons with disabilities and on the crisis in Syria.

A proposition was also made to also include donors as members of the AG. Other options could be to invite specific donors to attend on an occasional/observer basis, depending on the agenda for the particular meeting, or to organise a briefing for interested donors in conjunction with one of the meetings. The co-chairs agree to review these propositions and put forward a proposal at the next AG meeting **[action]**.

## 8. Update on the International MRE Working Group

The International Mine Risk Education Working Group ([IMREWG](#)) is a platform for sharing EORE good practices and technical guidance. This 'community of practice' is an informal knowledge exchange platform that grew to comprise 300 members from more than 60 countries.

UNICEF has plans to revamp and modernise this group, including the launch of a more attractive platform by the end of the year. More details will be provided at the next meeting of the EORE AG.

## 9. IMAS Update

A revision of IMAS 12.10 on Mine/ERW Risk Education has been drafted and inputs provided by a working group established within the IMAS Review Board (co-chaired by UNICEF and DDG). It is now in the hands of the Secretary of the IMAS RB, and the IMAS working group expects to receive

a revised version in the coming months. The working group and the EORE AG will be asked to provide a a 'final check' in July **[action]**.

## **10. Report back from EORE Workshop in the Context of the Syrian Refugee Crisis**

Kaitlin Hodge (GICHD) informed the AG about this workshop that was held in Lebanon in April 2019 – organised by the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) together with UNDP, with funding from Norway and support from UNICEF and the GICHD. Responding to the Syrian refugee crisis and increase in casualties from explosive ordnance particularly among this vulnerable group, the workshop brought together national authorities, UN agencies and NGOs to share experiences and discuss solutions to key challenges. Updates from authorities and organisations operating in the region brought to light several positive examples of EORE activities already underway in and around Syria. At the same time, it became clear that there are critical gaps in the regional response and that there is an urgent need for risk education to reach the millions of displaced Syrians. The post-workshop report is still being drafted and will be shared with AG members in due course **[action]**.