

Pre-meeting information: Mine Action Innovation Technical Group Meeting (MA ITG), 05th Dec 24

Introduction

This pre-meeting information note has been prepared to support the discussions during the upcoming meeting of the Mine Action Innovation Technical Group (MA ITG), to be held in Video Teleconference, on 5th Dec 2024, from 0900-1200 (CET).

Participants are invited to read this note in advance of the meeting and prepare their interventions, particularly on the on the guiding questions presented in the Food for Thought section. Contributions on other points not covered in the paper which are found relevant for the general discussion will also be welcomed.

Objective

The MA ITG is envisioned as a collaborative platform bringing together diverse stakeholders, such as experts from mine action organizations, relevant national authorities, research and technology entities, academia, and other expert organizations. This platform is intended to promote needs-based approaches, map technological advancements, and foster further coordination and collaboration in support of successful innovation in the Mine Action sector.

It is envisioned as a collaborative and inclusive endeavor, by practitioners and for practitioners.

The main objectives of the meeting will be to:

- Endorse ToR and appoint ITG co-Chairs
- Discuss a workplan for 2025 and possible sub-groups
- Share key takeaways of the Innovation Session: AI for Mine Action

Food for thought 2025 Innovation Conference and Award

The 2025 GICHD Innovation Conference will take place from 28-30Oct25, in Luxembourg. A Save the Date letter will be disseminated during the month of December. The Conference will follow the format adopted in 2023 with plenaries covering broader subjects and shorter simultaneous breakout sessions, as well as an exhibition area and speed pitch sessions. Planning of the event will kick off in early Jan25.

This event provides a platform for meaningful discussions about broad challenges to innovation (e.g. Intellectual Property Rights and Patents), as well as opportunities to discuss technical aspects of innovative practices, share good practice, spark dialogue, and forge new partnerships. For additional information about the 2023 Innovation Conference, see here: [2023 IC Report](#).

Guiding questions:

- Which themes/subjects would be useful/interesting to be covered at the 2025 Innovation Conference?
- Would you be interested in contributing to a break-out session or plenary?
- What other suggestions would you make on the format of this Innovation Conference?

GICHD Innovation Award

In 2025 GICHD will launch a new initiative: an Innovation Award. This initiative is designed to motivate individuals and organizations from academia, research, technology, and entrepreneurship to contribute their innovative ideas against specific problem statements. It will take the form of a Call for Papers and intends to draw the attention of a wider community external to Mine Action.

An independent panel will evaluate submissions in response to a Call for Papers on predetermined themes, awarding one or more winners. Awardees will have the opportunity to present their ideas at the Innovation Conference, potentially see their proposals supported for testing and evaluation in operational settings and receive a symbolic monetary prize.

The general theme in 2025 will be Land Release. Up to two specific problem statements within the theme will be identified.

Guiding questions:

- Which specific problem statements/subject would you suggest for the Innovation Award?
- Would you be willing to be part of the independent panel?
- What other suggestions would you make on the format of this initiative?

Mine Action Research Agenda(s): Land Release

In 2025, GICHD will launch a series of Mine Action Research Agendas, starting with a Research Agenda for Land Release. It is intended document comprehensively, but in a summarized manner, the prioritized needs and requirements for R&I within Land Release. It will provide an overview of the current state as well as of the art of technologies/methods and their potential applications.

We expect these Research Agendas will promote broader needs-based approaches, bridging the gap between the practitioners and the academic, research and technology organizations and equipment manufacturers. By documenting prioritized needs, Research Agendas also support road mapping research, R&D, establishment of partnerships and funding of R&I initiatives.

GICHD will take the lead in this work and counts on contributions from the ITG participants. Initial outline and periodic drafts will be circulated within the ITG for revision.

Guiding questions:

- What are the most pressing research and innovation needs within the theme of Land release?
- Would you be willing to be support the drafting of this Research Agenda?
- Which subject should follow Land Release to be covered by a Research Agenda?

Sharing of information

The ITG meetings provide the opportunity as well to share information about current or planned R&I activities. By openly discussing challenges, opportunities, and solutions, participants can align their efforts, avoid duplication, and identify areas for synergy.

If you would like to use a slot of the Sharing of Information section of the meeting, please refer to Pedro Basto (p.basto@gichd.org).

MA ITG meeting agenda (05th Dec 24)

Time	Activity and Topic
OPENING (30 mins)	
09:00-09:15	Welcome and opening remarks (review of previous action items)
09:15-09:30	Appointment of ITG co-Chairs
WORKPLAN 2025 (60 mins)	
09:30-09:45	GICHD planned innovation activities
09:45-10:00	Other planned innovation activities (TBC - participants invited to share)
10:00-10:30	Debate/contributions
SHARING OF INFORMATION (30 mins)	
10:30-10:45	Back brief Innovation Session: AI for Mine Action (Geneva, Oct24)
10:45-11:00	Other back briefs (TBC - participants invited to share)
WRAP UP (15 mins)	
11:00-11:15	Wrap up and way ahead

Coordination instructions:

- Together with this note, you have received an outlook invitation with the Meeting Link and ID. You can also find them here: [Join the meeting now](#), Meeting ID: 394 636 031 24, Passcode: nM7KG3fz
- Connection check: the session will be open 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time to allow participants to connect and make a communications check.
- Please insert your identification when joining the session in the following format: LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_ORGANIZATION
- Ground house rules will be communicated at the beginning of the session.
- Please make sure to:
 - Keep the cameras turned on (particularly when speaking).
 - Keep microphones muted when not speaking.
 - Use the raise the hand button to ask for the floor – a moderator will give you the floor on the first opportunity.
 - Be mindful of the time constraints of a meeting with a large audience and adhere to allotted speaking times.
 - Explore the chat function for questions and/or to provide feedback.