

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 6 December 2023
Time: 14:00 – 16:00 Geneva time (CET)
Location: Virtual (Teams)

Summary of Decisions

Decision	"2 May" Votes	"21 June" Votes	"Both options" Votes	"I abstain" Votes	No Vote
The AG voted to hold its retreat in the margins of the APMBC Intersessionals and First Preparatory Meeting for the 5 th Review Conference, on 21 June 2024.	5	6	2	0	2

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
EORE AG Governance		
Start planning internally for each representative's participation in the retreat.	AG Members	Ongoing
If needed, reach out to the Secretariat to request support/sponsorship to participate in the retreat.	AG Members	15 January 2024
EORE AG Task Teams		
Share the final Terms of Reference of the EORE Competencies Task Team with the group.	Celine & Secretariat	22 December
Organise a vote to formally decide on the creation of an Emergency Task Team.	Secretariat	30 January 2024
Consider joining and/or co-leading the Emergency Task Team.	AG Members	15 February
Other Activities		
Share/upload any practical and relevant resources on CPP/EORE on the dedicated platform created for Gaza and the West Bank.	AG members	Ongoing
Review the online Work Plan document, provide updates on activity status, and confirm to the Secretariat by email.	AG Members	20 December
Share the last version of the ToC diagram and glossary.	Hugues	22 December
Fill and disseminate to EORE in-country focal points and partners the 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey	AG Members	22 December

Participants

Co-Chairs: Furat Al Malkawi (The HALO Trust) & Hugues Laurence (UNICEF)

Secretary: Faustine Auger (GICHD)

Core members:

- DCA: Mark Wilkinson
- DRC: Mario Quiñones
- FSD: Angela de Santis
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Sofía Cogollos
- ICBL-CMC: Audrey Torrecilla
- LMAC: Lt. Col. Ali Makki
- MAG: Myriam Rabbath
- NPA: Colin Bent
- UNICEF: Bakhtiyar Salimov
- UNMAS: Bojan Vukovic

Associate member:

- IOM: Séverine Lacroix

Other attendees:

- GICHD: Celine Cheng
- MA AoR: Lisa Anouk Muller-Dormann
- UNMAS Palestine: Hana Albaioumy

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Furat opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the third and last meeting of the year and by providing a brief overview of the agenda of the meeting.

She welcomed to the group Mario Quiñones, new representative for DRC, taking over from Nick Vovk, as well as Myriam Rabbath, alternate for Sebastian from MAG. Additional new attendees were also given the floor for a quick introduction, namely Lisa Muller-Dorman from DRC, new MA AoR co-coordinator with UNMAS, and Hana Albaioumy, UNMAS senior risk education advisor in Palestine and coordinator for the MA AoR.

Furat noted that this is the first meeting of the EORE Advisory Group on Teams, and while it should be quite straightforward, the settings might be slightly different. She thanked all attendees for their understanding and invited members to provide feedbacks after the meeting, should they have any comment or question.

2. Updates on the EORE Competencies Task Team

Celine was given the floor to provide an update on the newly formed EORE Competencies Task Team (activity 1.4.3 of the [2023-2024 Work Plan](#)).

The Task Team held its first meeting on 4 December 2023. It is currently composed of several NGOs part of the EORE AG, with UNICEF and the GICHD as co-leads. The group is still open to

membership for anyone interested in joining the team. National authority representatives were particularly encouraged to join the Task Team as, ultimately, the T&EP on EORE competencies is designed for the EORE community, including national authorities. Having the national authority perspective represented in the group would be an important added value.

In summary, the Task Team discussed the first draft of a T&EP on EORE competencies. The group decided to take inspiration from existing T&EPs and to draw on the IMAS 06.10 on Management of Training to inform the EORE competencies T&EP. Although the names might need to be refined, the T&EP will cover the responsibilities of EORE facilitator, team leader, and potentially coordinator/manager. The Task Team had a specific discussion on the way to illustrate EORE competencies and whether to go by roles or to introduce 'levels' that would eventually lead to certifications, like for EOD.

Finally, Celine presented the next steps of the development of the draft T&EP:

- Members of the Task Team will be working together to develop a first draft. This will include formalising the responsibilities or levels – depending on the final decision of the group - and setting the layout of the draft.
- As per the IMAS 06.10, competencies will be further divided into knowledge, skills and attitudes for each responsibility and level.

The bulk of this work will take place in Q1 of 2024 as the group aims to formally present the draft T&EP to the IMAS Review Board during this quarter in view of setting up a Technical Working Group and having the competencies part of IMAS by 2025.

Hugues thanked again all members of the Task Team for the great attendance during this first meeting. He also confirmed that the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Task Team have been endorsed and proposed that these final ToRs be re-circulated to AG members for their information [\[action\]](#).

3. Update on the situation and EORE/CPP response in Israel/Palestine and the sub region

The meeting continued with a discussion around the situation in Israel, Palestine and the sub-region, where all members had an opportunity to share an update on their EORE/CPP programmes and activities in the region. This crucial discussion aimed at taking stock of the current situation and response, while understanding whether the EORE AG could support in any way.

Hugues began by emphasising the unprecedented nature of the current crisis. The escalation has led to a growing number of casualties, with 70% of victims in Gaza being children and women. Additionally, an unparalleled quantity of weapons has been dropped on Gaza during these last weeks. Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director, highlighted before the Security Council that the scale of contamination is without precedent, posing a long-term threat to civilians and children, with potentially tens of thousands of explosive remnants of war (ERW). In comparison, it is estimated that in 2014, 7000 ERW were reported after 50 days of hostilities, whereas the same number of air strikes occurred over a span of 6 days in the current crisis. Despite the challenge of obtaining accurate data at the moment, the current escalation is a tragedy with significant implications.

Following this introduction, the first update was presented by Hana from **UNMAS** Palestine, providing insights as the UNMAS Senior Risk Education Advisor, MA AoR coordinator, and an affected and internally displaced person in Gaza. According to Hana, the situation is becoming increasingly intricate as the conflict advances, with messages and communication channels

becoming ever more limited, compelling humanitarian organisations to rely on more traditional and limited means to reach populations.

The provision of EORE has undergone several stages over the last weeks:

- Initially, UNMAS attempted to reach as many people as possible through remote messaging via social media and sponsored ads, mainly in cooperation with MAG.
- After the loss of internet connection, efforts shifted to SMS campaigns.
- When communication and mobile networks were cut, the focus redirected toward producing printed posters for shelters and delivering face-to-face EORE when possible.

Teams are exploring new ways to deliver risk education messages, but challenges abound:

- With the closure of borders, basic resources, including electricity, are lacking, and communication channels are limited.
- An unprecedented number of people (1.9 million, approximately 80% of the population) are in need of EORE and internally displaced in Gaza.
- Many displaced people live in improvised shelters, outside UNRWA shelters, making them difficult to reach.
- This crisis is unique and cannot be compared to previous wars; its scale and impact make past preparation attempts and contingency plans only moderately relevant.
- EORE is not a priority for civilians, who are focusing on meeting basic needs like food, shelter, and health.
- Lack of data, including the exact type and scale of explosive ordnance (EO) contamination, poses challenges.

Regarding materials, despite efforts to print as much as possible, resources in Gaza are limited. Convoys are restricted, and reliance on external aid introduces competing priorities. Indeed, with fuel and raw resources lacking to print and produce materials directly in Gaza, organisations are relying on material and aid arriving through convoys. However, any material that comes in may replace a bottle of water, food or medical supplies. Caution should be exercised regarding the type and quantity of material brought in from outside via convoys.

However, some solutions have been initiated or could be explored to meet certain challenges:

- In the face of limited resources and convoys, developing materials for collective use, and through joint efforts of organisations on the ground.
- Exploring new options to ensure that EORE materials are not diverted or misused, e.g. use of EORE messages on water tanks, EORE stickers on bottles, etc.
- Collaborating across the humanitarian sector to prevent "service providers" fatigue from communities, for instance through mobile teams delivering a package of humanitarian messages covering different topics. It was indeed noticed that people were starting to get overwhelmed by the different messages and advice received from many different actors and places.

In the face of emerging needs, more resources are required to explore potential solutions and develop guidance while the emergency humanitarian response continues. Adapting CPP to address challenges should be considered, but it requires time and expertise to identify actionable steps.

Following Hana's brief, Colin updated the group on **NPA's CPP & EORE programme** and activities, emphasising the challenges faced by staff on the ground. NPA has been active in Gaza and Palestine since 2015, including with programmes focusing on CPP and EORE, such as training in schools, first aid training, radio and TV spots, and emergency supplies distribution. Over the years, approximately 226,000 direct beneficiaries were trained on CPP in Gaza. However, the current crisis has forced NPA to change its approach as training is no longer feasible. In addition, NPA's capacity to react has been affected by the unprecedented destruction and humanitarian

impact. With 9 national staff members in Gaza, all of whom have been displaced multiple times, the organisation had to adapt its strategy. The current response therefore includes:

- CPP Social Media campaigning: NPA launched a targeted social media campaign on October 8, focusing on safety messages for people sheltering in place with internet connection. The campaign has already reached over 2 million Palestinian accounts, with at least half of them in Gaza.
- CPP SMS campaigning in coordination with UNMAS and HI: over 1,000,000 SMS with CPP messages have already been sent. A new campaign is planned in the coming weeks.
- CPP Poster distribution: NPA supported HI in the production of CPP posters to be placed at UNRWA shelters across Gaza.

Colin highlighted the importance of adapting CPP messages to the current situation, marked by high levels of displacement and heavy use of EWIPA, moving away from the “classic scenario” of status quo. NPA now focuses on the rapid development of messaging centred on improvised solutions for real threats and risks to individuals and communities, such as the lack of drinking water and sanitation on a large scale, white phosphorus contamination, etc.

He also commended the coordination among the different actors involved, mentioning the creation of a WhatsApp group to facilitate collaboration and exchanges, regular meetings and joint actions, for example with UNMAS, HI and MAG, which have been instrumental in addressing the challenges.

To finish, he presented NPA's ongoing and future plans as part of the Gaza Conflict response, including:

- Radio CPP and EORE outreach (with UNMAS and through local radios).
- Continued social media outreach.
- Continued CPP and EORE SMS outreach.
- CPP and EORE materials distribution via emergency food and NFI assistance.
- Emergency post-conflict EORE trainings and awareness raising via local partners (after the crisis or in case of cease-fire).

Sofia, representing **HI**, then provided an update on the organisation's efforts, in close collaboration with NPA and UNMAS, outlining the following activities:

- SMS campaign initiated on October 13, with over 500,000 messages sent in the first batch. A second batch has been sent recently and plans for a third batch are in progress. However, operational issues with service providers have arisen, prompting HI to explore alternative options to ensure continuous SMS delivery.
- CPP Posters distribution, as mentioned previously by NPA.
- EORE/ CPP sessions conducted by HI volunteers in shelters. Around 227 sessions were completed by the end of November, reaching a total of about 11,000 beneficiaries.
- Partnerships with radio stations: HI is in the process of exploring partnerships with radio stations to broaden the dissemination of critical messages.
- Recruitment: HI is currently recruiting for a second EORE position in Gaza to strengthen its presence and response capacity.

Myriam, representing **MAG**, then reported on the organisation's collaboration with UNMAS. Over the past two years, MAG has been supporting UNMAS, focusing on digital EORE, primarily for Gaza. MAG utilised its META account to share CPP and EORE messages on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, addressing topics like white phosphorus. As previously mentioned, important challenges have, however, arisen due to internet connectivity disruption.

Looking ahead to 2024, MAG outlined the following plans:

- Continue the collaboration with UNMAS, particularly on digital EORE.
- Exploring options for additional on-the-ground support.

Hugues continued by providing an update on UNICEF's efforts, commanding the adaptability, agility and responsiveness of all stakeholders engaged in EORE and CPP in Gaza. He acknowledged the vital contributions of UNRWA, UNDP, NRC, and ICRC, not present at the meeting but actively involved in CPP and EORE efforts in Gaza. Representing **UNICEF Palestine**, he outlined the following activities:

- SMS campaign: UNICEF conducted an SMS campaign aligned with the MHPSS campaign (the first wave of EORE messages reached over 60,000 people).
- Adaptation of materials: UNICEF amended with UNMAS a leaflet for EORE and CPP (100,000 copies) and is in the process of reprinting a card game (40,000 copies) designed for use in shelters.
- Radio spot program: negotiations are underway for a programme involving radio spots.
- Implementing partners on the ground: UNICEF established new contracts with two experienced organisations to facilitate in-person EORE sessions in shelters and communities.

While previously working under the UNMAS umbrella, UNICEF has plans to scale up its programme in the coming months. Notably, they intend to extend their involvement in CPP, a domain in which they were not previously engaged.

Following Hugues' update, Hana further emphasised UNRWA's efforts. She noted that UNRWA staff initiated the delivery of child-friendly EORE messages in shelters, acknowledging their early and proactive engagement in this regard.

Mario, representing **DRC**, shared DRC plans to conduct an assessment to determine a strategy to complement ongoing efforts. Mario further commended the collective efforts of all involved.

As highlighted by Hugues, Gaza has been a pioneer in the development of CPP. Recognising the significance of CPP, Hugues stressed the need for the EORE AG to explore ways to support the integration of EORE and CPP in a meaningful manner. He also mentioned the creation of a dedicated platform to centralise EORE and CPP materials relevant to the situation. The aim of this platform is to enhance capacity sharing among entities on the ground and optimise resources. AG members are encouraged to share and/or upload any practical and relevant resources on this platform for the benefit of colleagues in Gaza and the West Bank [\[action\]](#). To finish, Hugues and Furat, echoed by other representatives, expressed gratitude for the updates provided by colleagues. They praised the collective efforts of all organisations on the ground in the face of this unprecedented crisis.

Later in the meeting, Ali, representing **LMAC**, provided an update on the ongoing actions in Lebanon. An extensive campaign has been led by LMAC in response to the contingency situation, including both digital and in-person EORE efforts. Additionally, billboards have been strategically placed near the border and conflict areas. In collaboration with all relevant operators, efforts have been made to gather information on IDPs in Lebanon, particularly those located at the border. To address the specific challenges posed by white phosphorus contamination, a leaflet was collaboratively produced with the Ministry of Health, and a special rapid response training was organised. The leaflet is accredited by the army and is being particularly utilised at checkpoints.

4. Discussion around the creation of an Emergency Task Team

Following the previous discussion on the situation in Palestine and Israel, and recognising the growing number of requests – be they formal or informal - for guidance and resource sharing related to emergencies, a discussion was initiated about the creation of a new Task Team within the EORE Advisory Group. Furat recalled that, in addition to conflict-related challenges, numerous

natural disasters took place earlier this year, such as earthquakes in Turkey, Syria and Afghanistan, or floods in Libya, raising recurring questions relevant to the delivery of EORE. Against this background, the suggestion was made to create an Emergency Task Team, which would directly feed into Activity 1.2.1 of the [Work Plan](#) of the EORE AG to “[serve as a technical resource for the sector in face of new and emerging challenges.”

Recalling the goal of the EORE Advisory Group to help professionalise the sector and raise the profile of EORE, the proposed Task Team would aim to draw on lessons learnt and good practices to develop/promote practical guidance and tools for practitioners and for the sector on specific EORE questions related to emergencies. However, it would be up to the members of the Task Team to define the scope of its work and potential products (e.g. adapting the Q&A for Ukraine).

Before gathering members’ opinions, Furat also reminded the group that, although the EORE competencies Task Team has recently been formed, with the completion of other Task Teams’ mandates, such as the EORE E-learning Task Team, there is now more space for the creation of an Emergency Task Team.

Opening the floor for comments, Furat sought members’ opinions and interest in the creation of the Emergency Task Team. Sharing the experience of their organisations and challenges faced, members, including Sofia (HI), Ali (LMAC), Myriam (MAG), and Lisa (MA AoR-DRC), supported the initiative and confirmed the organisations’ interest in engaging further with the creation of such a Task Team. As highlighted by Myriam, the work of the Task Team would be very beneficial to organisations on the ground and this collective effort would certainly be highly appreciated.

Matthieu agreed that this Task Team aligns perfectly with the EORE AG mandate to increase the visibility and importance of EORE, particularly in emergencies. Emphasising that specific ToRs will have to be developed to define the scope of work, and that the goal of such a Team would not be coordination, by producing guidance and sharing good practice, this Task Team could have a significant added value. It would for instance facilitate access to resources to local organisations and stakeholders beyond the EORE AG. In addition, as an indirect outcome, this Task Team would continue to advance the risk education agenda and highlight the need for resources to support EORE in emergencies. Furat seconded Matthieu’s point that this could greatly enhance accessibility of resources, with products that could be disseminated beyond the group.

On behalf of UNICEF, Hugues echoed other members’ opinions in favour of this Emergency Task Team which would work on the production/promotion of guidelines, sharing resources and tools. Supporting Myriam’s remarks, he emphasised the necessity of collective work to address the vast needs and combine resources and good practices. However, reaffirming that the EORE Advisory Group is not a hub, a “hotline” or a coordination group, he stressed the importance of having very clear ToRs for the Team to avoid confusion. Bakhtiyar further supported Hugues’ view, mentioning UNICEF’s efforts and willingness to continue raising the importance of EORE.

Thanking all members for their contributions, Furat explained that a communication will be sent in the coming weeks for core members to formally vote on the creation of an Emergency Task Team. Members or colleagues are invited to come forward should they be interested in joining and/or leading this Task Team [\[action\]](#).

5. Updates on RBM

Continuing, Hugues provided an update on Results-Based Management (RBM). In September and October 2023, UNICEF conducted two courses in Spiez, Switzerland, specifically the 'Developing Effective EORE' and 'Integrated Mine Actions Programmes for Better Results' courses. A total of 42 participants from 14 affected countries and 5 headquarters attended these courses. The resource packages from both courses are available to everyone ([EORE course](#) & [IMA course](#)) and have been circulated through the International Mine Risk Education Working Group.

This year, efforts focused on improving the Social and Behavior Change (SBC) narrative in this RBM work. In total, 16 theories of change (ToC) were developed by the groups across the two courses, most of them integrating a stronger SBC approach. These changes from past years stem from the work and research undertaken as part of the development of the overarching ToC. In this sense, the courses also served as an opportunity to test the reasoning of the overarching ToC, which is still in progress.

The training programme will continue next year, with UNICEF hoping to welcome more colleagues from the African continent.

As mentioned, regarding the development process of the overarching ToC (activity 1.1.2 of the [2023-2024 Work Plan](#)), the work on the narrative is still in progress. The aim is to share a draft narrative for inputs by January. The diagram, in its fourth version, is already available.

In response to Kim's inquiry about the availability of the latest ToC diagram, Hugues mentioned that it was previously shared with AG members and made public last June at the NDM-UN (document available [here](#)).

6. Review of the 2023-2024 Work Plan (activities status)

As 2023 is coming to an end, time has come to review the 2023-2024 EORE AG Work Plan and the activities conducted this year to see the progress made against the Work Plan objectives. Furat and Faustine provided a brief overview of the activities and products achieved under each axis of the Work Plan in 2023 (i.e. quality management, cooperation, integration & synergies, etc.).

Regarding the delivery of EORE AG statements, it was highlighted that this was the first time the group delivered two statements, one at the CCM MSP in September and another one at the APMBC MSP in November. In this context, Matthieu and Sofia, representatives of the organisations that delivered the statements on behalf of the AG during these respective events, were given the floor to provide brief feedback. Sofia thanked everyone who had contributed to the preparation of the statement for the 21st MSP of the APMBC. Concerns were raised about both the EORE AG and ICBL statements being presented under the umbrella of the ICBL-CMC delegation, potentially causing confusion and duplication. However, Audrey clarified that the ICBL-CMC statement aimed to reinforce messages conveyed in the EORE AG statement without duplicating them. Regarding the statement delivered during the 11th MSP of the CCM, positive echoes were received. In addition, the GICHD is now working with the ISU Director and Article 4 Coordinators, namely Italy and Norway, to explore the possibility of adjusting the Machinery and having Risk Education Coordinators appointed at the 12th MSP. It should be noted that both statements are available on the [CCM](#) and [APMBC](#) websites respectively.

Following this short overview of achievements and progress, Furat thanked members who provided inputs on the Work Plan document before the meeting while highlighting that the updates of some organisations are still required. Members were urged to review the online Work Plan document previously sent by email and provide their updates as soon as possible, and ideally by 20 December [\[action\]](#). Once done, members are encouraged to confirm to Faustine or reach out in case of questions or concerns. As mentioned by Hugues, comments and suggestions on Work Plan activities and outputs (including wording, relevance, missing elements) are also welcomed as part of this mid-term review.

Furat further stressed the importance for members to provide their input as an updated Work Plan presenting mid-term progress will be published on the [EORE AG webpage](#) at the beginning of the year. However, members were further reassured that should they encounter any change of plans in the coming weeks or have any uncertainty regarding some activities or inputs provided, a final review and confirmation of the activities' status will be done in January by email, before publication of the reviewed Work Plan.

Finally, Furat took the opportunity to provide an update on the 2023 EORE AG Stakeholder Survey. The 2023 Survey was launched and disseminated through several channels on Friday, 1 December 2023. It will be open until 22 December 2023. Highlighting the crucial role of AG representatives to ensure the success of the survey, members were encouraged to fill the survey and disseminate it to their EORE in-country focal points and partners to reach a critical number of respondents, especially since participation in the survey decreased in the last years **[action]**. This year, the survey in its revised, pilot version is supposed to be shorter, clearer and more user-friendly. Members are invited to provide feedback on the survey to improve this pilot version.

Furat also thanked Audrey, the Secretariat and everyone at the EORE AG who helped revise the survey. Audrey emphasised Furat's call for all members to complete and share the survey, especially with local partners, to reach a variety of stakeholders and perspectives and to get a meaningful number of responses. As Audrey pointed out, stakeholders do not need to work exclusively or be specialised on EORE to fill in the survey.

7. Organisation of an in-person EORE AG retreat

Matthieu was then given the floor to discuss the organisation of an in-person EORE AG retreat in 2024. He recalled that the idea of this retreat was launched during the last meeting.

For this edition, it is proposed to organise a one-day in-person retreat either in the margins of the NDM-UN (on 2 May 2021) or of the APMBC Intersessional meetings (on 17 or 21 June, depending on the exact dates of the APMBC events). The agenda will be built collaboratively, with the following elements being suggested:

- Overview of findings and recommendations from GICHD's EORE Global Sector Analysis
- Presentation of the final revised EORE Stakeholder Survey
- Discussions around the 2025-2026 EORE AG Work Plan
- Discussions about the EORE AG's inputs to the APMBC 5th Review Conference

In terms of logistics, the GICHD has already secured a budget to support the Secretariat in the organisation of this retreat, to cover the costs of a venue, lunch, dinner, etc. This retreat will provide an opportunity for team building and in-person exchanges, while also focusing and brainstorming on the agenda items to be decided.

Each member organisation is responsible for covering the costs of its representative's participation. However, limited support is available through the Secretariat for sponsorship. All members are encouraged to start planning and check as soon as possible within their organisation the availability of a budget to attend this retreat. Members who would need financial support/sponsorship to participate in this retreat should reach out to the Secretariat by 15 January **[action]**.

Finally, in order to proceed with the organisation of the retreat, a vote was held to decide on the date for this event. After verification, the vote resulted in a tie between the two dates (2 May 2024 or 17/21 June 2024).

ADDENDUM:

- 1) The dates of the APMBC Intersessionals and First Preparatory Meeting were confirmed after the EORE AG meeting. The events will take place as follows:
 - Intersessional Meetings from 17-19 June 2024, in Geneva.
 - First Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Review Conference on 20 June 2024.
- 2) In order to break the tie on the date, it was decided to extend the vote to the core member organisations which could not take part in the meeting and voting process on 6 December. This resulted in **Friday 21 June 2024** being elected as the date for the AG retreat **[decision]**.

8. AOB

Given the limited remaining time, this agenda item was not addressed. Participants were invited to provide any other information or comment they may have to the Secretariat by email.

In this context, Hugues shared an update on the content of the recent [UNSG Report on Mine Action \(July 2023\)](#) which specifically refers to EORE and the role of the EORE AG:

“83. I welcome the ability to reach increasing numbers of people through in -person explosive ordnance risk education, mass messaging and use of innovative methods and tailored campaigns. I also note the advocacy efforts of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group. I encourage Member States to foster continued progress in explosive ordnance risk education in order to improve coverage, quality and equity”

“84 [...] I am grateful for the work of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group, and I encourage the creation of similar alliances of organizations to raise the profile of victim assistance interventions and ensure that the human rights and needs of victims of explosive ordnance are more systematically met.”

He also highlighted the content of the latest UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on Assistance in Mine Action, adopted on 7 December 2023 ([A/RES/78/70](#)), and available in 6 languages, which:

“Encourages Member States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine action programmes take into account **risk education**, the rights, specific needs and requirements of victims and persons with disabilities, that they are gender- and age-sensitive and disability-inclusive so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and also take into account the specific needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as persons residing in conflict and post-conflict areas, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, including women, in the programming of mine action”

The UNGA Resolution also notes “*with appreciation* the role of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group [...] which was formed to steer risk education efforts and to promote the use of robust behaviour change strategies to systematically protect affected populations from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war”.