

EORE AG

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 30 January 2026

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 Geneva time (CET)

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
EORE AG		
Follow-up email to AG core members to formally confirm agreement of ERNE	Secretariat	15 March
Coordinating submissions of EORE AG NDM side-events proposals	AG members	6 February
Review of the 2025-2026 plan	AG members	01 June
Review of AG ToRs	AG members	01 June

Participants

Co-Chairs: Mark Wilkinson (DCA) & Hugues Laurence (UNICEF)

Secretary: Lubna Allam (GICHD)

Attendees: Core members, associate members and observers

- **GICHD:** Matt Laruelle
- **UNICEF:** Svitlana Kisilova
- **HI:** Sofía Cogollos and Heloise Pihery
- **UNDP:** Sean Moorhouse
- **MAG:** Sebastian Kasack and Myriam Rabbath
- **NPAID:** Colin Bent
- **MA AoR:** Christelle Loupforest
- **FSD:** Michael Barry
- **CHDE:** Mary Mkhitarian
- **ICRC:** Paramdeep Mtharu

MoM

1. Welcome remarks

Mark Wilkinson opened the meeting expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to co-chair the AG and noted his commitment to contributing to its work going forward. He also acknowledged the contribution of the previous Co-Chair.

Mark highlighted that the humanitarian Mine Action sector was facing challenging times, emphasizing that the role of the EORE AG was more critical than ever. He recalled the AG's mandate and briefly revisited several key objectives outlined in the ToRs. In particular, he emphasized the importance of pursuing cross-sectoral synergies, not only across the pillars of MA but also across the wider humanitarian sector, especially given the increasing budgetary constraints.

Mark further highlighted the AG's role in priority setting and guidance, as well as its responsibility to raise donor awareness of existing gaps in EORE, including both funding and capacity gaps.

Mark then welcomed the new members of the AG: *Sean Moorhouse* representative of UNDP, *Noe Nielsen* representative of DCA, *Alexis Spetsis* representative of IOM, and *Svitlana Kisilova* substitute representative of UNICEF.

2. EORE AG's Emergency Task Team

Héloïse Pihery, Co-Chair of the Emergency Risk Education Task Team, provided an overview of the Task Team's mandate, progress, and planned next steps.

Héloïse recalled that the ERE TT had been established in March 2024 under the umbrella of the EORE AG as a technical network to facilitate the exchange of good practices, lessons learned, and tools among MA actors operating in emergency contexts. The TT had agreed to focus its work on three priority areas: conflict preparedness and protection (CPP), risk education related to incendiary weapons, and risk education in natural hazard settings.

Héloïse reported on progress achieved since the TT's establishment, noting that 9 TT meetings had been held over the past year and a half. She highlighted that 5 technical presentations had been organized, covering topics such as risk education in Sri Lanka, CPP, disaster risk reduction, and SBC. She also mentioned that TT had convened a side event on EORE-CPP at the 2025 NDM in collaboration with GICHD, NPA, and other partners.

Turning to deliverables, Héloïse shared the link to the [TT online library](#) compiling resources across the three focus areas mentioned above.

She then presented updates from the three sub-task teams:

- For the incendiary weapons sub-task team, Héloïse explained that the scope had been refocused exclusively on incendiary weapons, following an initial broader approach that included chemical weapons. She reported that a comprehensive resource library had been compiled and that a dashboard tool had been developed to map incendiary weapon incidents and nearby health facilities, with potential applications for both risk education and victim assistance.
- For the CPP sub-task team, Héloïse noted that five meetings had been held. She reported that an initiative mapping and shared library had been completed, alongside a survey identifying challenges and opportunities in CPP implementation. She further indicated that a technical workshop was planned to develop common messages on sheltering guidance and safe behaviors, and that briefing

papers and bite-sized content focusing on Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, were expected to be finalized by the end of February.

- For the environmental hazard sub-task team, Héloïse acknowledged that activity had been limited due to a lack of leadership (however currently in the process of being reactivated). Nevertheless, she noted that dashboard tools mapping natural hazards alongside EO contamination had been developed.

Héloïse outlined the strategic roadmap for the coming year. She indicated that a TT meeting was planned to take place soon. She emphasized the priority of reactivating the environmental hazard sub-task team, completing outstanding deliverables, and exploring the organization of a side event at the next NDM to present the TT work and achievements. Héloïse also introduced ongoing work on the establishment of a new Early Response Network for Risk Education and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (ERNE).

3. Early Response Network for EORE-CPP (ERNE)

Colin Bent, Co-Chair of the ERE TT introduced ERNE and presented its rationale, proposed structure, and operational model.

ERNE is a voluntary, membership-based, and ad hoc network operating under the EORE AG. Its primary function would be to provide anticipatory and rapid technical support for emergency EORE and CPP, including tools, messaging, and technical advice, disseminated through local partners and channels. ERNE would focus on preparedness through crisis monitoring, early identification of high-risk contexts, and the pre-development of technical materials, followed by time-bound response to requests for support during emergencies.

ERNE would not be a coordinating body, an implementing entity, or a parallel structure to existing mechanisms. Rather, it would complement and work through established national and international coordination structures, including NMAAs, MACs, clusters, and civil society organizations. He stressed that ERNE interventions would be short-term, request-based, and limited to emergency contexts where existing capacity was insufficient.

Colin explained that the ERNE concept had been developed in response to the growing number of rapid-onset crises involving the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. He highlighted the increasing scale and intensity of armed violence globally, the rising number of civilian casualties and displaced populations, and the simultaneous reduction in humanitarian funding and civilian protection norms. He emphasized that these trends underscored the need for improved preparedness and rapid technical support for EORE and CPP, particularly in contexts where national or local MA capacity was limited or non-existent.

Colin mentioned that the ERNE concept had emerged from discussions held throughout 2025, including a workshop hosted by HI in June, which brought together EORE and CPP practitioners. One key recommendation from these discussions was the establishment of a collaborative emergency technical support mechanism to assist local and national actors during the early phases of crises

Colin noted that the founding members of ERNE included GICHD, MAG, NPA, UNICEF, and HI, and encouraged other EORE AG members to review the draft ToRs and consider joining the initiative. He outlined membership expectations, including a commitment to provide technical expertise, human resources, and active participation in joint analysis, technical support, peer exchange, and mentorship.

Colin added that ERNE did not currently have a standing budget, though funding could be mobilized in the future to support specific activities.

Colin also clarified that ERNE **would not** be a legal entity and would not enter into contractual agreements or grants with local partners. He explained that any contractual relationships would remain the responsibility of individual member organizations, following their respective procedures. He noted that principles related to partnership vetting and humanitarian standards would be further elaborated in a forthcoming ERNE handbook.

4. UN-NDM 2026

Hugues Laurence provided an update on preparations for the upcoming NDM 2026. He explained that NDM planning had already started through a dedicated committee and reminded members that the deadline for submitting side event proposals was 6 February 2026 and noted that participant registration was due by the end of March.

Hugues recalled that the AG had advocated for an EORE plenary, noting that there had been no EORE plenary the previous year and he believed an EORE plenary had likely been secured this NDM. He added that an initial concept under consideration for the plenary was EORE and youth, with a focus on adolescents and young adults.

Matthieu Laruelle presented updates on side event planning and noted that, following discussions with Hugues, a side event proposal was submitted to launch and disseminate the EORE competences T&EP with Céline Cheng, GICHD identified as lead. He explained that panelists would be approached once the proposal was confirmed.

Matthieu also noted that other potential side event ideas had been discussed among members, including a thematic session on coordination and technical assistance for EORE/_CPP in emergencies (including an opportunity to present the ERNE mechanism), as well as potential sessions on integration of EORE/_CPP into other sectors, including engagement with the Global Protection Cluster and work with IOM on integration into camp management-related approaches.

Christelle Loupforest added that the UN Interagency Coordination Group on Mine Action worked on the agenda in close collaboration with GICHD and reviewed side event proposals. She also described exploratory discussions on a possible joint side event with the newly merged Camp, Shelter and Sites Management Cluster (led by IFRC and IOM), including challenges in highly contaminated environments such as Gaza.

Matthieu Laruelle summarized a possible way forward: a youth-focused plenary with a contribution highlighting emergency-related developments, alongside two EORE-related side events: one on the EORE T&EP and one presenting ERNE and the ERE TT's work.

5. IMAS Updates

Hugues Laurence first presented the IMAS governance structure, outlining the respective roles of the IMAS Review Board, Steering Group, and the UN Interagency Coordination Group for Mine Action and the level of approval required for standards, Test and Evaluation Protocols, and technical notes.

Hugues then updated the group on the publication of the Test and Evaluation Protocol for the EORE competency framework. He noted that the document, developed by a TT co-led with Celine Cheng, endorsed by the EORE AG and the three IMAS bodies had been published on the IMAS website the previous week. Hugues emphasized that this was the first T&EP ever developed specifically for EORE and thanked the TT members.

Turning to the revision of IMAS 12.10, Hugues mentioned that a proposal to revise the IMAS had been approved by both the Review Board and the Steering Group and included in the IMAS Review Board work plan, and explained that the revision would be conducted through a dedicated technical working group under the IMAS Review Board. Participation in the working group would be open to interested entities and individuals. Finally, Hugues provided an update on the approval to develop a new TN on explosive weapons risk education, also referred to as CPP. He explained that while the proposal had encountered reservations during Review Board discussions, particularly regarding scope, mandate boundaries, there was consensus to proceed. He noted that concerns raised included questions about the distinction between explosive weapons and explosive ordnance, as well as broader reflections on limits to risk education in relation to other weapon types. Despite these discussions, the proposal received strong support from a majority of Review Board members and was subsequently approved by the Steering Group, thereby being formally included in the IMAS work plan. It was recommended that members of the Advisory Group brief their respective Review Board representatives on the rationale of CPP and the new TN to ensure stronger awareness and buy-in from the Review Board.

6. AOB

- Lubna Allam provided updates on 2 ongoing EORE AG activities:

She reported that the annual EORE stakeholder survey had been launched earlier in the month and had already reached more than 120 respondents, matching response levels from previous years. She confirmed that the deadline for submissions would remain 1 February, with no extension planned, in order to proceed with analysis. Lubna explained that, due to funding considerations, the results would be compiled in-house into a concise and accessible report, to be published by the end of Q1.

Lubna also updated members on developments related to the EORE Hour platform. She noted that the platform had grown to over 950 subscribers, with strong engagement in recent webinars. She highlighted the most recent EORE Hour on Colombia's national experience in QM as the first to successfully use simultaneous interpretation, enabling speakers to present in their language while reaching a global audience. She emphasized that this approach reinforced the AG's commitment to localization. Lubna also flagged upcoming EORE Hour sessions, including a webinar by MAG on gamification and a GICHD webinar on operationalizing the new T&EP.

- Sebastian Kasack proposed considering mechanisms to allow experienced national operators working on EORE to apply for more formal or core membership within the AG, noting that this could enhance the quality and diversity of expertise.
- Mark Wilkinson then outlined several additional points:

He highlighted the AG's intention to strengthen advocacy efforts in 2026 by developing EORE AG statements for key international conferences, including Review Conference of the CCM, the APMBC MSPs, and the Review Conference of the CCW (check Annex 2). He noted that the co-chairs would reach out in advance of these events to seek volunteers, particularly among members already planning to attend, to read pre-prepared statements on behalf of the AG.

Mark also noted that the 2025-2026 work plan was now at its midpoint and informed members that separate correspondence would follow relating to a review to assess progress and identify any areas requiring refocusing.

On the EORE AG ToRs, Mark noted that they had been in place for some time and would also benefit from a structured review to ensure continued relevance and clarity. He indicated that members would be invited to provide feedback in the coming weeks.

- Héloïse Pihery sought confirmation from members that there were no objections to proceeding with the establishment of ERNE under the EORE AG. No objections were raised, and agreement to move forward was noted.

Following this, Mark Wilkinson, Hugues Laurence, and Lubna Allam agreed that support for ERNE should be formally documented. It was agreed that this would be reflected in the meeting minutes and complemented by a follow-up email to AG members, inviting anyone with concerns or reservations to raise them directly with the co-chairs.

Mark Wilkinson closed the meeting by thanking participants for their active engagement and contributions, noting that follow-up communication would be shared by email in the coming days.

ANNEX 1

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Lead	Comments
20 min	1. Welcome notes	Hugues and Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming new representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New co-chair - New representatives for IOM, UNDP, and DCA • A word from the new co-chair • Presentation of new representatives
20 min	2. Early Response Network for EORE-CPP (ERNE)	Colin and Heloise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop in Luxembourg feedback • ERNE ToRs • Future steps
10 min.	3. Emergency Task Team	Heloise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates
5 min	Break		
15 min	4. NDM 2026	Hugues and Matthieu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GICHD's side event at NDM • AG side event at NDM
20	5. Funding impacts 2026 ¹	Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion/updates on the impact of 2025 funding cuts and assessments for 2026
10	6. IMAS Updates	Hugues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions of the Review Board, Steering Group and UN Principals • Update on 3 Risk Education-related IMAS
10 min	AOB	Co-Chair and Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders Survey • EORE HOUR webinars • AG's advocacy at key conferences • Revision of the ToRs • Review of the workplan

¹ This session is conducted under the Chatham House Rule. Interventions will not be attributed outside the meeting.

ANNEX 2

30 March – CCM 1st Preparatory Committee of the 3rd Review Conference (1 day)

15-18 June – APMBC Intersessionals

1 July – CCM 2nd Preparatory Committee of the 3rd Review Conference (1 day)

14-18 September – 3rd Review Conference CCM (Vientiane, Lao PDR, or Geneva)

CCW

- **9 November** – The Meeting of Experts (Protocol V)
- **10-11 November** – The Group of Experts (Amended Protocol II)
- **12 November** – The 20th Annual Conference on Protocol V
- **13 November** – The 28th Annual Conference on Amended Protocol II
- **16-20 November** – The 7th Review Conference of the CCW

30 Nov-4 Dec – APMBC 23rd MSP