

## Meeting Minutes IMAS Steering Group

---

Date of meeting:	15 December 2022
Start time (duration):	09:00 New York (60 minutes)
Location:	Online on Microsoft Teams
Meeting Secretary:	Mr. Sasha Logie, GICHD

---

### Record of Attendance

#### Members:

UNMAS / Chair	Ms. Ilene Cohn, Director
GICHD	Amb. Stefano Toscano, Director
LMAC	Brigadier General Jihad Bechelany, Director
MASG	Amb. Yves Marek, Chair of the MASG and SG de la CNEMA, France
UNDP	Mr. Steinar Essen, Specialist, Development and Mine Action
UNICEF	Mr. Luc Chauvin, Chief, Inter Agency and Humanitarian Partnerships, Office of Emergency Programmes
UNOPS	Mr. Amir Omeragic, Director, Peace and Security Cluster

#### Observers:

UNMAS	Mr. Seamus McMEnamin
UNMAS	Ms. Cecile Van Manen
UNICEF	Mr. Hugues Laurence

### 1. Welcome and introduction of new Steering Group members.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed UNICEF's Mr. Luc Chauvin who participated in the meeting as a proxy member on behalf of UNICEF.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda.

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

### 3. IMAS Review Board membership - review unlimited duration of NMAA membership.

At its meeting on 22 June 2022, the SG decided to review the rules on NMAA Review Board (RB) membership as a possible means to improve the representation of national authorities. A group of SG member representatives from UNMAS, UNICEF, and GICHD prepared a paper that set out three options for the SG to consider during the meeting. These included: A) maintaining the status quo; B) limiting RB membership tenure for NMAAs to instigate rotation; and B+) in addition to limited tenure, ensuring representation of global regions.

During the discussion, it was acknowledged that the IMAS rules on revalidating RB membership lack clarity and detail. Notwithstanding this, the consensus within the SG was to work to improve the representation of national authorities within the existing provisions of IMAS 01.10. It was noted that adding new rules would add a level of complexity that might be difficult to implement. It was also noted that as a foundational principle there should not be different rules for different types of membership.

The SG concluded to maintain the current rules and to adopt option A in the options paper. It tasked the group that developed the options paper to consider ways of implementing a more robust revalidation process of RB membership and to review relevant language in IMAS 01.10.

The SG also decided that Afghanistan should be represented on the IMAS RB by the United Nations Humanitarian Mine Action Coordination Support Centre on a temporary basis until such a time that Afghanistan is able to participate fully in the RB and other UN-led fora.

#### **4. Review requirement to review IMAS every three years.**

At its meeting on 22 November, The RB reviewed the requirement to review IMAS on a three-yearly basis and whether it remained fit for purpose, aligned to best practice within the standards industry and practicable to implement. It recommended to the IMAS SG to increase the review period to five years, without precluding essential amendments from being made within that period.

The SG approved changing the required periodicity of review of IMAS to once every five years.

#### **5. Update on IMAS Review Board workplan.**

The SG Secretary provided an update on the progress of the RB workplan 2021-22. The SG was also briefed on the ongoing process of developing the next two-year RB workplan for the period 2023-2024. The draft workplan will be submitted to the SG for approval by 28 February 2023.

#### **6. Consideration/adoption of six IMAS.**

The SG adopted the following IMAS:

- IMAS 04.10 – Annex on the management of terminology in IMAS
- IMAS 06.10 (Ed.2, Am.4) – Management of training
- IMAS 07:50 (Ed.1) – Management of human remains in mine action
- IMAS 08.40 (Ed.3) – Marking EO hazards
- IMAS 10.30 (Ed.2, Am.5) – Safety and occupational health – personal protective equipment
- IMAS 13.10 (Ed.1, Am.1) – Victim assistance in mine action

#### **7. Any other business.**

The Chair thanked Ambassador Yves Marek for his commitment to the SG. From 1 January 2023, the new Chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) will take over as the donor representative on the SG.