

Meeting of the IMAS Steering Group

Tuesday, 27 November 2018, 09:00-10:30, Geneva

Participants:

1. **Ms. Agnès Marcaillou**, Chair of the IMAS Steering Group, UNMAS
2. **Mr. Alan Macdonald**, Secretary of the IMAS Steering Group and Chair of the IMAS Review Board, UNMAS
3. **Ms. Sara Sekkenes**, Partnerships Advisor, Conflict Prevention, Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP
4. **Mr. Olaf Juergensen**, Team Leader, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, UNDP
5. **Mr. James Provenzano**, Head Peace and Security Cluster, UNOPS
6. **Mr. Stefano Toscano**, Director GICHD
7. **Mr. Rory Logan**, Secretary of the IMAS Review Board, GICHD

Absent: UNICEF representative

General

Chair IMAS Steering Group (SG) welcomed the participants and recalled that the last meeting was held in 2012

The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the IMAS Review Board's (RB) proposed updates and amendments of Standards within the IMAS framework. It was noted that amendments made by the RB or new IMAS developed by the RB are made available immediately, customarily become operative and posted on the IMAs website. This process has proven to be fruitful. The IMAS Steering Group does not comment on technical input or changes to IMAS, but it endorses new standards, including substantive updates to existing IMAS chapters and any new terminology approved by the IMAS Review Board.

Consideration of Operative documents:

The Secretary of the IMAS Steering Committee and Chair of the IMAS Review Board briefed the Group on the Board's work and process.

The Group approved the transmittal of the following documents to the 4 December meeting of Inter-Agency Coordination Group meeting at principals level, for their endorsement:

- ✓ *IMAS 07.11 – Land Release (1st Edition, 2013, Amendments 1-4, 2013-2018), reviewed in 2013, 2016 and 2018;*
- ✓ *IMAS 10.50 – Storage, transportation and handling of explosives (3rd Edition, 2013), approved by the Review Board in 2013;*
- ✓ *IMAS 07.12 – Quality Management in Mine Action (1st Edition, 2016), approved by the Review Board in 2016;*
- ✓ *IMAS 07.30 – Accreditation of demining organisations and operations (2nd Edition, 2016), approved by the Review Board in 2016;*
- ✓ *IMAS 07.40 – Monitoring of mine action organisations (2nd Edition, 2016), approved by the Review Board in 2016;*
- ✓ *IMAS 01.10 – Guide for the Application of IMAS (2nd Edition, Amendment 9, 2018), approved by the Review Board in 2018;*
- ✓ *IMAS 07.13 – Environmental Management in Mine Action (1st Edition, 2017), approved by the Review Board in 2018;*
- ✓ *IMAS 07.10 – Management of Land Release and Residual Contamination Operations (1st Edition, Amendment 7, 2018), approved by the Review Board in 2018;*
- ✓ *IMAS 04.10 – Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations (2nd Edition, Amendment 8, 2018), approved by the Review Board in 2018;*
- ✓ *IMAS 09.40 – Animal Detection Systems, Principles, Requirements and Guidelines (3rd Edition, 2018), approved by the Review Board in 2018.*

IMAS Website discussion:

The Group discussed changes and remodeling of the IMAS website as managed by GICHD. The chair of the informed the SG that the IMAS Review Board support the adjustments made to the functionality of the website (e.g. the documents that are not used for a long period of time are archived), but had also made some suggestions associated with drop down menus. The website is being made more user-friendly, with improved search and download tools. A new-look website is expected to be active in 3 weeks. Any UN logo incorporated in the website must be verified as authentic and not modified.

Exchange of views:

- IMAS is a unique tool and a success story within Mine Action, It is a fundamental principle of IMAS was that they were drafted by those who use them: donors, states, implementors.
- The participants were concerned that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the governance of IMAS were not explained that well in IMAS 01.10 Guide for the Application of IMAS. Since the last evaluation took place in 2011, the Group expressed the view that an independent external evaluation of the IMAS governance and process would be useful and timely.
- GICHD noted that it had supported the review of IMAS in 2011 and would be ready to support this evaluation.
- UNOPS also noted its support to and interest in the evaluation and referred to its prior experience with the evaluation of international procurement standards

Action points:

- Secretary of the Group to assist Chair of IMAS Steering Group with briefing of IACG principals at their December 4th, 2018 meeting at UN HQ;
- Transmit for their endorsement the draft IMAS to the IACG principals
- Convey Steering Group recommendation for an independent external evaluation of the IMAS governance and process, including review of IMAS 01.10
- Secretary of the Group to organize next meeting of the IMAS Steering Group for its consideration of the IMAS on IED related issues.

Agnès Marcaillou, Chair