

Minutes of the Meeting of the International Mine Action Standards Steering Group
Wednesday, 22 May 2019
UNOG, Geneva

Participants

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| Chair | Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director, UNMAS, assisted by Ms. Hannane Boulmaoui, UNMAS Geneva |
| Secretary | Mr. Alan Macdonald, UNMAS |
| UNICEF | Ms. Meritxell Relaño Arana, Director of Emergency Programmes, Geneva, assisted by Mr. Hugues Laurence, UNICEF, NY |
| UNOPS | Ms. Dionyssia Geka, Deputy Director NY, representing Mr. James Provenzano, Director, NY |
| GICHD Rory Logan | Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director, GICHD, assisted by Mr. UNMAS Geneva Office |

Excused

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| UNDP | Ms. Oksana Leshchenko, UNDP NY |
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Opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 0840.

The SG adopted the draft agenda.

The Chair informed the Steering Group (SG) that the next meeting of the UN Inter Agency Coordination Group Mine Action at Principals level would be held, at UN HQ, on 27 June 2019.

Report on the updates from the IMAS Review Board (RB)

The Chair invited the Secretary of the Steering Group (and Chair of the IMAS Review Board (RB)) to introduce three documents, namely, Notes dated 22 May 2019 providing information on the RB updates; a document presenting editorial changes to several definitions, and the Review Board Workplan

The Secretary briefly presented the 4 IMAS that were being put forward to the SG for its transmittal to the IACG principal: IMAS 05.10 Information Management for Mine Action (2nd Edition 2019); IMAS 07.14 Risk Management in Mine Action (1st Edition 2019); IMAS 09.13 Building Clearance (1st edition 2019), and IMAS 09.31 Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) (1st Edition, 2019). The Secretary informed the SG that the latter three IMAS were essentially linked IMAS associated with the IEDs and now closed the IMAS gap in this area. These IMAS would be complimented by the UN IED Disposal standards published in 2018.

The Steering Group decided to postpone its decision on definitions until more comprehensive information is made available by the Secretary, and the alignment/conformity of definitions with existing UN documents is verified.

In the context of the discussion on the workplan, the SG decided that RB work on an IMAS / or technical note on Human Remains could proceed. [Action Point Chair and Secretary of the RB]

On the revision of IMAS 10.60 Accident Investigation, because the Secretary clarified that the process would expand areas of where an investigation might look beyond the event, down the medical chain, some concern was raised about accountability and liability. Nevertheless, the SG decided that work on a review of IMAS 10.60 Accident Investigation could proceed [Action Point Chair and Secretary of the RB]

The Secretary reported that the work on a new Victim Assistance (VA) IMAS triggered divergences of views on whether it was appropriate to draft an IMAS in the form of an advocacy/political document. The SG expressed its hope that consensus would eventually be reached and the integrity of the nature and form of IMAS maintained.

Based on the Secretary's appreciation of the workload, the SG asked that all items identified to be completed by the end of 2019, be completed on time for the December IACG-Principals to consider them for approval.

Consideration of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the IMAS Governance "Review"

The Chair recalled the SG's previous recommendation to the IACG-Principals to consider an independent external evaluation of the IMAS process governance. She recalled the expression of interest in supporting this process by both the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and UNOPS. She recalled that the IACG-Principals had supported UNOPS engagement in carrying out the consultant selection process and the evaluation funding, though noted that this decision was not reflected in the minutes issued by the IACG.

The SG asked for the minutes of the December meeting of IACG-Principals to reflect accurately their choice of UNOPS; the SG also requested the Secretary to replace the term "review" by "independent external evaluation", to remove the qualification of UNOPS as "main implementing partner of UNMAS"; to remove the inaccurate mention of "UNMAS" as managing the process and remove the mention of the "Director of UNMAS" in the consultant reporting line. [Action Point Secretary]

The SG agreed that the "independent external evaluation" shall be concluded in time for recommendations to be discussed by the SG and transmitted to the IACG-Principals ahead of their December 2019 meeting. [Action point Secretary]

Any other Business (AOB)

There was no AOB

Closure of the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 0930.