



United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
2015 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain
Conventional Weapons

**Statement on Other issues relevant to the Convention, including mines other than
anti-personnel mines (MOTAPM)**
Thursday, 12 November 2015

Delivered by Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief, Geneva office, UNMAS

Mr. Coordinator,

The following statement is delivered on behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action1 (IACG-MA), comprising United Nations entities involved in mine action.

Mines other than anti-personnel mines, especially anti-vehicle mines (AVMs), have been used in a number of countries and territories and are responsible for an increasing number of civilian deaths and injuries in post-conflict communities around the world.

The United Nations stresses the importance of a stringent analysis of the humanitarian and development impact of anti-vehicle mines on civilians and development of mine-affected countries. Anti-vehicle mines kill and injure indiscriminately. They also prevent internal displaced persons and refugees from returning back home, food aid from reaching the affected areas and the trade of goods vital for economic growth.

From the recent informal meeting on AVMs of last Friday, 6 November, co-organized by UNMAS, ODA and GICHD, the case was made that more ought to be done on this issue. In particular, as evidenced by the meeting, the international community needs to address the humanitarian and development impact of AVM use through the prism of cooperation and assistance; detection and clearance; as well as possible additions to existing International Humanitarian Law.

The problems caused by AVMs stem both from the nature of these weapons and the way they are used. They are designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of vehicles, be they tanks or school buses. In other words, AVMs are "victim-activated". They oftentimes have much greater lethal effect than anti-personnel mines, and are responsible for the loss of too many civilian lives.

Moreover, even if anti-tank mines may have been initially used with a discriminate, military purpose, when they are not removed once that military purpose no longer exist, they immediately become indiscriminate.

As has been the case in the past, UNMAS can further bring forward operational experience on this matter, and remains available to facilitate discussions amongst experts.



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In closing, the United Nations reiterates its commitment to supporting your work, the work of the Coordinator, and that of the High Contracting Parties on the issue of MOTAPM.

Thank you.