

Side Event Concept Note

Humanitarian demining as a precondition to lasting peace: Challenges and solutions

Each year, thousands of civilians are killed and injured by landmines. It is estimated that 110 million land mines are currently in the ground. While one mine costs between \$3 and \$30, the cost of demining operations is much higher - \$300-1000. The cost of removing all existing mines amounts to colossal \$50-100 billion.

The countries most affected by land mines include Egypt, Angola, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, China, Cambodia, Mozambique, Bosnia, Croatia, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. Recently, in the wake of the Russian aggression and particularly its escalation in 2022, Ukraine has joined this group, with 40 % of its territory mine-contaminated, an area as large as the entire United Kingdom (250.000 km²).

The present event seeks to draw attention to the importance of humanitarian demining as an integral part of return to peaceful life. Speakers will define current challenges to successful demining operations and discuss the need for international cooperation and assistance. The discussion will be aimed at devising solutions for intensifying demining efforts and ensuring synergy between state and non-state actors.

The event will feature invited experts active in the area of demining. Particular guests are to be confirmed.