



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations



unicef 

A World Free of Mines: For a Safer Tomorrow

The 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty

CONCEPT NOTE

Friday, 1 March 2019

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Conference Room 1, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The Mine Ban Treaty was adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997 and has established a strong norm against any use of anti-personnel mines use of landmines. 164 States Parties, and a network of international organizations and civil society actors, work towards the shared goal of a mine free world.

Norway has been a staunch supporter of this Treaty since the early campaign. We have been a donor for global mine action for 25 years. We aim to use our presidency in 2019 to bring renewed political attention to the Mine Ban Convention.

The 20-year anniversary on 1 March 2019 of the *entry into force* of the Mine Ban Treaty provides an opportunity to bring renewed attention to weapons which continue to kill and injure during and long after a conflict has ended. Landmines are not a problem of the past. Over the past few years, landmines have again been used as tools of war, including by armed non-state actors.

With the number of casualties from landmines on the rise again and the highest annual total of child casualties recorded since 1999, there is an urgent need for the international community to broaden the scope of prevention measures and effective mine risk education for vulnerable communities, IDPs and refugees.

Agenda

Opening poem by UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and poet Emi Mahmoud

11:00 – 11:05 Opening remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway,
Ms. Ine Eriksen Soreide

11:05 – 11:10 Remarks by UNICEF Mr. Ted Chaiban, Director, Programmes

11:10 – 11:30 Remarks by the Permanent Representatives of Mozambique, Cambodia and Iraq

11:30 – 12:20 Panel on a World Free of Mines: For a Safer Tomorrow.
The importance of the Mine Ban Treaty – success stories and challenges ahead

Moderator: The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ine Eriksen Søreide

Panel speakers include:

- *Nathalie Ochoa, Project Manager, UNMAS, Colombia*
- *Zlatko Vezilic, Interim Country Director, Norwegian People's Aid, Cambodia*
- *Sergiy Prokhorov, C4D Specialist, UNICEF, Ukraine*
- *Christian H. Ruge, LL.M, Deputy Director, Programme Director, NOREF
Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution, Norway*

12:20 – 12:50 Q/A (moderated)

12:50 – 13:00 Closing remarks by the panelists and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ms.
Ine Eriksen Søreide

Time and Venue of the Event

This event will take place on 1 March 2019, from 11:00 am – 13:00 pmat Conference Room 1 at the United Nations Headquarters, which is located at 46th Street & 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

Online availability

This event will be available on webcast and archived on UNWeb TV

Media

This event is open to UN accredited media. For more information, please contact Press Counsellor Ragnhild H. Simenstad, rhs@mfa.no, 646 642-9910.