



AFRICAN UNION



ICRC

CONCEPT NOTE

Mine Action: Commemoration of International Mine Awareness Day

Addis Ababa, 4 April 2013

Background

On 8 December 2005, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared that April 4 of each year would be officially observed as International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. It calls for continued efforts by states to help establish and develop national mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive war remnants constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of people, and hinders social and economic development at the national and local levels.

Introduction

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Union have taken a number of steps to assist Member States in addressing the problem of landmines. To further this agenda, the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with United Nations Mine Action Services (UNMAS), United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are organizing an event to commemorate International Mine Awareness Day.

The event will be held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 4 April 2013, and will involve AU Member States, staff from the AU Commission, RECs, representatives from UNMAS and UNOAU, experts from the ICRC weapons contamination and arms units, as well as other International partners. The Commission will also write to Member States and selected AU liaison offices, to encourage them to engage in activities on the ground, aimed at raising mine action awareness.

Objectives

This one day event aims to promote greater awareness of the danger of Mines and Explosive Remnant of War (ERW) to all citizens, with emphasis on taking part in protection and the prevention of danger they cause in Africa.

The event will include:

1. Opening Addresses
2. Demining Demonstration, with dummy minefield at the AUC HQ
3. Mine Action Photo exhibition
4. Display of Mine action information stands (Confirmed UNMAS, Mine Wolf, ICRC)
5. Press Conferences and photo opportunities
6. International Partner working lunch

Roles and responsibilities

- i. AU with support from UNMAS/UNOAU will be responsible for the overall planning and coordination of the event.
- ii. UNMAS/ UNOAU will be responsible for:
 - a. Financially and administrative responsibilities for the deployment of relevant resource person to support this event
 - b. Photos displayed at the exhibition
 - c. Equipment used for the dummy mine field
 - d. Co-ordination of sponsorship from stakeholders for this event
- iii. ICRC will provide additional pictures and videos for display