



**Embassy of the Republic of
Azerbaijan**



ITF Enhancing Human Security



**Mine Action Agency of the
Republic of Azerbaijan**

“Humanitarian Mine Action: Toward a World Free from Explosive Threats”

Roundtable and Exhibition marking the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

Date and time: 17 April 2026, 10.30 - 12.30

**Venue: Safir 1 Conference Room, Grand Plaza Hotel
Slovenska cesta 60, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia**

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Objective

The roundtable and exhibition co-organised by the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) with support of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan aim to raise awareness about the growing challenges posed by landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) across the world. Dedicated to the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the event will highlight lessons learned from countries recently affected by conflict to spotlight humanitarian mine action efforts and mobilize stronger international assistance, partnerships and sustained funding toward a safer, mine-free world.

2. Background

Landmines and UXOs continue to pose a serious threat to human security in numerous countries around the world. In 2024, at least 6,279 people became victims of landmines and other ERWs; approximately 1,945 were killed and 4,325 were injured. Civilians accounted for about 90 percent of all casualties, with nearly half of the victims being children. Comparative data shows that the number of casualties has been rising in recent years, while international support for mine action has been declining.

Humanitarian Mine Action is seen a fundamental enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, directly contributing to at least 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Along with posing serious safety threat, landmines significantly impact socio-economic development by inhibiting agricultural activities,

restricting access to natural resources, and exacerbating poverty and food insecurity of affected populations. The negative effects of explosive hazards can persist even decades after military hostilities end, disrupting social cohesion, impeding post-conflict recovery, development initiatives and efforts to achieve the SDGs. In recognition of this linkage, many countries declare demining as 18th national SDG. The UN Human Rights Council in its Resolution 58/22 of 4 April 2025, recognized the threat of anti-personnel mines to the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Humanitarian mine action continues to face complex challenges in countries affected by conflict. In many contexts, prolonged hostilities leave vast areas contaminated with landmines and UXOs putting mine action capacities under unprecedented strain. At the same time, factors such as limited access due to safety concerns, damaged infrastructure and difficult terrain further complicate clearance efforts and hinder operations.

Additionally, the presence of new types of explosive hazards, including cluster munitions and improvised explosive devices, requires specialized expertise, equipment, and training. Detection is also becoming more difficult due to the increasing use of sophisticated low-metal or plastic-cased mines, which are harder to detect with conventional metal detectors and often require more advanced technologies and slower, more resource-intensive clearance methods.

Landmine and UXO contamination also place a heavy financial burden on affected countries, which must invest significant resources in clearance, risk education and victim assistance. While the demand for mine action is increasing and operational challenges are becoming more complex, the global funding for demining is declining. The widening gap between available resources and humanitarian needs is further exacerbated by reductions in support for key areas such as victim assistance, risk education and the provision of demining equipment or other essential operational tools and expertise.

As the UN Secretary General reported in 2025, funding for mine action has become unpredictable, over-reliant on a few donors and overreactive to emerging contexts at the expense of enduring needs. Voluntary contributions to the voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine action decreased from \$125 million to \$46 million over the past seven years. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are vital to mine action delivery, have closed programmes and cut thousands of staff, mostly nationals of countries affected by explosive ordnance.

These challenges demand coordinated international support, innovative approaches, and strengthened local capacities to ensure effective and timely humanitarian interventions.

Since its inception, ITF has been continuously developing and strengthening its mission of enhancing safety as well as enabling the recovery and development of conflict affected countries by addressing the immediate and long-term impact of mine/ERW and other hazards following armed violence. It has expanded its geographic area and scope of activities in order to address the problems of the ever-changing human security environment, the needs of beneficiary countries and the priorities of the donor community, basing its activities on strong partnerships, regional approach and the principles of transparency and accountability.

Established in 1998 to clear mines, unexploded ordnance, and other explosive residues in the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan, ANAMA has evolved into a premier international institution for humanitarian demining, utilizing highly-skilled personnel, advanced technology (drones, robots), and specialized animals. ANAMA is recognized for its high operational capacity and actively shares its extensive experience with other mine-affected countries and institutions working in humanitarian demining.

3. Guiding Questions

- What are current challenges, political developments and lessons learned in mine action and how to contribute to a sustainable peace, security and development?
- What are the latest trends, technical developments and solutions in mine action and how can they contribute to effective and efficient humanitarian demining and mine risk education?
- How to address the specific needs of women and men, girls and boys in mine risk education and victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration and what role can national and international actors play in this regard?
- What are the main operational and logistical challenges in clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance, and how can they be mitigated?
- How can the international community increase financial and technical assistance to countries facing severe mine contamination, particularly at a time when funding is declining and landmine-related casualties continue to rise?

4. Speakers

Welcoming remarks

H.E. Mr. Rovshan Sadigbayli, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Slovenia;

Moderator:

Mr. Samo Selimović, Peace Operations Training Centre Coordinator, Centre for European Perspective;

Panelists:

- **Ambassador Tomaž Lovrenčič**, Director of ITF - Enhancing Human Security;
- **Mr. Samir Poladov**, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA);
- **Mr. Rory Logan**, Deputy Director, Chief of Operations, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD);
- **Mr. Michael Heiman**, Head of Programs, Mine Action, APOPO