



Conference Programme

UMAC2024

Thursday 17 October 2024

9:00–9:50	Opening plenary PLENARY HALL
9:50–10:40	Plenary panel: 'Strategic approach to mine action: global experience and Ukraine's perspective' PLENARY HALL
10:40–11:20	Family picture (heads of official delegations only)
11:20–12:30	Parallel panels on (1) People ROOM LUGANO (2) Partners ROOM BERN and (3) Progress ROOM ZÜRICH
13:00	Press Conference followed by a minefield exhibition ROOM LUGANO
14:00–14:20	Reporting back from panels 1,2 and 3 PLENARY HALL
14:20–14.25	Musical intermezzo
14:25–14:50	Panel on: People. Partners. Progress. – Part 1 PLENARY HALL
14:50–15:30	Panel on: People. Partners. Progress. – Part 2 PLENARY HALL
15:30–16:00	Closing plenary PLENARY HALL

Friday 18 October 2024

09:00–9:15	Opening plenary PLENARY HALL
09:15–10:30	Plenary panel: 'Ukrainian mine action strategy implementation: progress, challenges and opportunities' PLENARY HALL
11:00 –12:15	Parallel panels on (4) People ROOM LUGANO (5) Partners ROOM BERN and (6) Progress ROOM ZÜRICH
12:30–13:00	Closing plenary PLENARY HALL

Panel descriptions

Day 1

Opening plenary

Plenary Hall, Thursday, 17 October, 09:00 – 09:50

After a minute of silence for mine victims, UMAC2024 will open with keynote speeches by the President of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Ms Viola Amherd, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, H.E. Mr Denys Shmyhal. It will be followed by a speech of Mr Giles Duley, CEO of the Legacy of War Foundation, photographer and United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations. The opening plenary session will be accompanied by musical interludes performed by a trio composed of Ukrainian musician Ms Yuliia Shevchenko with Ms Liga Liedskalnina and Mr Davide Dipilato of the University School of Music of the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana.

Moderation



Ms Giada Marsadri

Artistic director of Noda BCVS and regularly moderating events

Speakers



H.E. Ms Viola Amherd

President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS



H.E. Mr Denys Shmyhal

Prime Minister of Ukraine



Mr Giles Duley

CEO of the Legacy of War Foundation, photographer and United Nations Global Advocate for persons with disabilities in conflict and peacebuilding situations

Musical Intermezzo

Plenary panel – Strategic approach to Mine Action: global experience and Ukraine’s perspective

Plenary Hall, Thursday, 17 October, 09:50 – 10:40

This panel will focus on the Strategic Approach to Mine Action and include both global experience and Ukraine’s perspective. First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Economy of Ukraine, H.E. Ms Yulia Svyrydenko, will set the frame by presenting the global implications of mine contamination in Ukraine and the role of Ukraine’s National Mine Action Strategy until 2033 in ensuring the effective coordination of all stakeholders. The panel will benefit from the perspectives of donor and affected states.

Moderation



H.E. Mr Tobias Privitelli

Ambassador, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Speakers



H.E. Ms Yulia Svyrydenko

First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Economy of Ukraine



H.E. Mr Gordan Grlić Radman, PhD.

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia



H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch

Senior Minister and Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority – President of the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention



H.E. Mr Stanley L. Brown

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, United States Department of State

Parallel Panels

Panel 1 – People: Ensuring Safety and Protection of Civilians through Humanitarian Demining

Room Lugano, Thursday, 17 October, 11:20 – 12:30

The panel is focused on reducing the impact of explosive ordnance on civilians and communities. It will emphasize the critical role of humanitarian demining in Ukraine's social and economic recovery, particularly by improving agricultural productivity and restoring access to essential services like healthcare and education. The panel will discuss risk education activities and emphasize the need for a holistic, age- and gender-sensitive approach to address the specific needs of victims and people with disabilities caused by explosive ordnance for their physical and mental rehabilitation, as well as social and economic reintegration, and how innovation can support these efforts.

Moderation



H.E. Dr. Melita Gabrič

State Secretary for multilateral affairs, economic diplomacy and development cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Speakers



H.E. Ms Catherine Fearon

Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General and Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE



H.E. Mr Johan Berggren

State Secretary to the Minister for Civil Defence, Sweden



Mr Munir Mammadzade

UNICEF Representative to Ukraine



Mr Andrey Stavnitser

Founder of Superhumans Center

Panel 2 – Partners: The Importance of Partnerships and Exchange of Know-How

Room Bern, Thursday, 17 October, 11:20 – 12:30

This panel focuses on partnerships that extend beyond traditional donor-beneficiary relationships in humanitarian mine action, emphasizing synergies between partners. It aims to explore how mine action is integrated into broader recovery efforts, particularly in Ukraine, and the importance of international cooperation. Success stories will be shared, including on setting up the right architecture as well as building national capacity through international collaboration and productive partnerships. Lastly, updates on the implementation of Ukraine's Mine Action Strategy will be given.

Moderation



H.E. Mr Elmedin Konaković
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speakers



H.E. Mr Haoliang Xu
UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator



H.E. Mr Peter M. Wagner
State Secretary, European Commission's Head of the Service
for Foreign Policy Instruments



H.E. Mr Bogdan Drapiaty
Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs of Ukraine



Ms Birgitte Nygaard Markussen
Director for Humanitarian Affairs at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark



Mr Mark Glauser
Director General, Peace and Security Programs, Global Affairs Canada

Panel 3 – Progress: Innovative Financial Mechanisms – Ensuring a sustainable future for Mine Action

Room Zürich, Thursday, 17 October, 11:20 – 12:30

This panel will address the need for sustainable funding in humanitarian mine action, exploring alternatives beyond traditional donor streams. It will present various mechanisms, such as front-loading and agricultural bonds, that could be applied to mine action financing in Ukraine and other affected regions. The panel seeks to explore proven financial concepts and their adaptation for demining, aiming to gather momentum for their implementation.

Moderation



H.E. Mr Eivind Vad Petersson

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway

Speakers



H.E. Mr Ihor Bezkaravainyi

Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine



Ms Nathalie Olijslager

Director for Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands



Mr Greg Houston

Director of Demining and Migration at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom



Ms Eila Kreivi

Member of the Board of Directors of International Finance Facility for Immunisation IFFIm

Plenary on People. Partners. Progress.

Plenary Hall, Thursday, 17 October, 14:00 – 14:20

Reporting back: moderators of the parallel panels will report back to the plenary

Moderation



Ms Giada Marsadri

Artistic director of Noda BCVS and regularly moderating events

Speakers



H.E. Dr. Melita Gabrič

State Secretary for multilateral affairs, economic diplomacy and development cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia



H.E. Mr Haoliang Xu

UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator



H.E. Mr Eivind Vad Petersson

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway

Musical Intermezzo

Panel on People. Partners. Progress. – Part 1: Moderated exchange

Plenary Hall, Thursday, 17 October, 14:25 – 14:50

This panel will focus on the people behind the pillars People and Progress. The discussion will be led in a conversation style.

Moderation



H.E. Ms Patricia Danzi

Ambassador, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Speakers



Ms Nadiia Kudriavtseva

EOD Team member of the Fondation suisse de déminage FSD in Chernihiv, Ukraine



Prof. Farhad Rachidi

Head of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Laboratory of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL)

Panel on People. Partners. Progress. – Part 2: Fireside chat

Plenary Hall, Thursday, 17 October, 14:50 – 15:30

This Fireside chat will focus on the people behind the pillar Partners.

Moderation



H.E. Ms Patricia Danzi

Ambassador, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Speakers



H.E. Ms Yulia Svyrydenko

First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Economy of Ukraine



Mr Howard G. Buffett

Chairman and CEO of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation

Closing Plenary

Plenary Hall, Thursday, 17 October, 15:30 – 16:00

The Closing Plenary will conclude the first day of UMAC2024 and present the Lausanne Call for Action.

Moderation



Ms Giada Marsadri

Artistic director of Noda BCVS and regularly moderating events

Speakers



H.E. Mr Ignazio Cassis

Federal Councillor – Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



H.E. Ms Yulia Svyrydenko

First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Economy of Ukraine



H.E. Mr Gordan Grlić Radman, PhD

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia



H.E. Mr Yoshifumi Tsuge

State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

After the closing plenary

Exhibition space, Thursday, 17 October, 16:00 – 17:30

Demining demonstration, Virtual reality tent, bilateral meetings and side event

WFP/FAO Side Event: Restoring Food Security and Livelihoods through Mine Action

Room Bern, Thursday, 17 October, 16:15 – 17:15

Vast expanses of agricultural land and rural communities in Ukraine are contaminated by explosive ordnance – impacting food security domestically and internationally. This side event organised by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), in conjunction with the Ministry of Economy, explores how demining can deliver productive land and restore livelihoods through effective planning, by incorporating significant non-mine action inputs into programming, and through strong international and government partnerships. It draws on the experience and progress of the joint WFP/FAO mine action and livelihood project in Ukraine. More information [here](#).

Moderation

- Mr Oleh Stoiev, Head of Mine Action Office, Ministry of Economy

Speakers

- Mr Guy Rhodes, Senior Programme Officer, World Food Programme
- Mr Roman Prymush, Deputy Head, State Emergency Service of Ukraine
- Ms Tiphaine Lucas, Programme Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Mr Hansjörg Eberle, Director, Fondation suisse de déminage
- Mr Edmund Clarke, Senior Manager, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Day 2

Opening plenary

Plenary Hall, Friday, 18 October, 09:00 – 09:15

Moderation



Ms Giada Marsadri

Artistic director of Noda BCVS and regularly moderating events

Keynote speech



H.E. Mr Alexandre Fasel

State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Plenary panel – Ukrainian mine action strategy implementation: progress, challenges and opportunities

Plenary Hall, Friday 18 October, 09:15 – 10:30

Moderation

- Mr Rory Logan, Head of Strategies, Performance and Impact GICHD

Speakers

- H.E. Mr Ihor Bezkaravainyi, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine
- Col. Ruslan Berehulia, Head of the Main Department for Mine Action, Civil Protection, and Environmental Safety, Head of the Secretariat of the National Mine Action Authority of Ukraine, Ministry of Defence of Ukraine
- Mr Richard Ragan, Country Director in Ukraine, World Food Programme (WFP)
- Ms H el ene Kuperman-Le-Bihan, Head of Mines Advisory Group Europe
- Mr Tymur Pistriuha, Head Ukrainian Deminers Association

Parallel Panels

Panel 4 – People: Restoration of Agriculture and Environment: Tackling Mine Contamination Impacts

Room Lugano, Friday, 18 October, 11:00 – 12:15

The discussion will highlight the underexplored impact of mine contamination on the environment and agriculture. It will focus on developing a holistic approach to address both environmental consequences and agricultural restoration, with the aim of promoting projects that combine demining, environmental recovery, and agriculture.

Moderation

- Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director FAO Liaison Geneva

Speakers

- Mr Sergii Vlasenko, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalization
- Ms Margot Wallstr om, Co-Chair of the High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of War, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- Ms Marta Trofimova, Head of Sustainability, Kernel
- Mr Aksel Steen-Nilsen, Director Mine Action and Disarmament, Norwegian People's Aid

Panel 5 – Partners: Blending Public and Private Partnership Mechanisms in Mine Action

Room Bern, Friday, 18 October, 11:00 – 12:15

This panel will explore how partnerships between the public and private sectors can address the challenges of mine contamination. Success stories of long-term cooperation between international and domestic partners will be shared, as well as mechanisms for blended funding. The discussion will also highlight efforts towards joint manufacturing of mine action equipment and the development of local capacities.

Moderation

- H.E. Mr Tomaz Lovren i , Ambassador, Director ITF Enhancing Human Security

Speakers

- Ms Eri Komukai, Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Dr. Christoph S anger, Head of Competitiveness, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Mr Volodymyr Bayda, Director of the Center for Humanitarian Demining, Ukraine
- Mr Rizak Mykhailo, Director of Government Relations, Nibulon

Panel 6 – Progress: Risk Management: Developing Standards, Tools, and Methods to Meet Current and Future Demands

Room Zürich, Friday, 18 October, 11:00 – 12:15

This panel will discuss the role of new technologies and methodologies in improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of mine action, with lessons drawn from Ukraine's experience. The panel aims to explore how these innovations can be incorporated into International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and applied globally, ensuring both safety and progress in demining efforts.

Moderation

- Ms Ilene Cohn, Director UN Mine Action Service UNMAS

Speakers

- Ms Naomi Konza, Project Manager, UN Development Programme
- Mr Davor Laura, Head of Operations, Croatian Mine Action Center, Ministry of Interior of Croatia
- Mr Roman Prymush, Deputy Head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformation and Digitalisation
- Mr Tom Griffiths, Head of Region – Latin America, The HALO Trust
- Mr Borys Drozhak, Co-founder of Rovertech

Closing plenary

Plenary Hall, Friday, 18 October, 12:30 – 13:00

Reporting back by Moderators and

Closing remarks by:

- H.E. Ms Iryna Venediktova, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Swiss Confederation
- H.E. Mr Tim Enderlin, Ambassador, Head of Peace and Human Rights Division Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA, Switzerland

Musicians



Ms Yuliia Shevchenko
Bandura and vocals, music teacher in Kyiv, member of the Bern City Theatre choir



Mr Davide Dipilato
Guitar, student of the University School of Music of the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana



Ms Liga Liedskalnina
Soprano, student of the University School of Music of the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana