Informal meeting on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM)

ROOM VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

29 August 2017 – 10:00 to 1:00 pm

Possible measures to mitigate the impact of MOTAPM
Introduction

• MOTAPM pose serious concerns due to their humanitarian and development impact, as well as various challenges to clearance operations;

• Indiscriminate nature, unlimited lifespan and long lasting legacy of MOTAPM

• More has to be done by the international community:

  ➢ Existing international regulations are inadequate to address the real humanitarian and socio-economic impact associated to the use of anti-vehicle mines.

  ➢ New regulations are possible to significantly reduce their impact
International policy/regulation

• All MOTAPM should contain a self-destruction mechanism for self-neutralization or self-deactivation so they have a limited lifespan

• MOTAPM should be detectable by commonly available technical mine detection equipment

• MOTAPM should not be fitted with anti-handling devices

• MOTAPM should not be fitted with sensitive fuses that can be activated by the presence, proximity or contact of a person.

• Prevent the transfer and diversion of any MOTAPM.
Safeguards to mitigate the impact of MOTAPM

• A combination of safeguards would be the preferred approach to mitigate the threat of MOTAPM:
  ➢ Procedural – Fencing, marking and monitoring of mined areas, raising awareness and mine risk education
  ➢ Technical – Increasing detectability and self-deactivation

• Improvements to clearance technology
Possible measures at national level

• National policy/military doctrine: Regulate the methods used to lay MOTAPM-requirement to restrict and regulate their placement outside of marked-perimeters

• Improvement on the recording of MOTAPM placement and use

• Improvement on sharing of information and data

• Compliance with reporting obligations
Conclusion

• The recommended measures and practical actions can make a tangible contribution to reduce the terrible humanitarian effects of MOTAPM, will render humanitarian mine clearance operations significantly less time-consuming, expensive and dangerous and will reduce the obstacles to reconstruction and development.

• For anti-vehicle mines currently emplaced in the ground (minefields, roads), in order to eliminate the impact of old anti-vehicle mines, there is no other practical solution than mine clearance.