



General Assembly: Advanced General Assembly: Effects of Mine Action

Hello delegates. My name is Grace Dluzak, and I will be your vice chair for the 2018 MVHS MUN conference. I am a sophomore at MVHS and have been in MUN for two years now. I am an active participant in my school's drama program; and I enjoy swimming and watching Netflix. I cannot wait for the MVHS MUN conference, and I cannot wait to see you all there. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at mvhsmunspd@gmail.com

I. Background Information:

Mine action is the removal of remains of explosives and dangerous materials left over after a war, usually referring to landmines. Other terms for these materials include anti-personnel landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and cluster munitions. These explosives have become popular in combat since their use in the second World War. Though it may seem like a small issue, there are currently more than fifty territories affected by mine action. These mines pose a threat to the civilians. There have been many reported cases of people accidentally activating landmines, leading to death and destructions.

According to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) there were more than six thousand reported casualties due to mines in just 2015 alone. There are many humanitarian groups with the intent to deactivate and remove these mines, to keep people safe. However, access to these locations is difficult due to the increased risk of traveling. Additionally, while recovering from a war it is important for people to receive the proper medical care and developmental structures often given to them by humanitarian groups. This is very difficult to achieve due to the fear of mines around an affected area.

The GICHD claims that the development and risk of mines has been increasing rapidly, further increase the importance of removing these explosives. Many organizations such as GICHD, APMBC, and CCM are designed specifically for the removal of ERWs. The removal of ERWs have greatly increased survival of many innocent civilians, which helps improve many other different parts of affected societies.



The United Nations involvement in the removal of ERWs is completely necessary because of the persistent nature of this issue. While there is a constant removal of explosive remnants of war, there is a risk of accidental activation one, especially in war stricken countries. The United Nations has the ability to coordinate some of their many committees to work towards the complete removal of ERWs. ERWs are especially concerning to the United Nations because of their harmful nature and the risk factor of affected civilians.

II. United Nations Involvement:

The deactivation and removal of ERWs has been one of the major priorities of the United Nations, due to their more recent increase of popularity in wars and combat. Each year, the United Nations has a specific theme, or focus, for the year. The theme for each year is the primary issue the United Nations is trying to solve. In 2015, explosive remnants of war were such a large problem that the UN made “More than Mines” their theme for the year. This theme has helped the progress in the removal of explosive remnants of war.

While the United Nations recently have paid great attention to this pertinent issue, the problem is still apparent. The United Nations has developed several committees specifically designed around mine action in the many affected territories. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) brings together representatives for all aspects of mine action, while the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) takes the representatives from the DPKO and creates and revises strategies regarding the removal of mines. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) advocates for the support of policies created regarding landmines and ERWs into governments. However, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) work to provide direct relief regarding the creation or strengthening of mine action programs and distribution of education about the risks of mine action, relatively. Additionally, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is a large provider in mine action. All of these programs help the removal of the dangerous mines in some way or another.



While the United Nations plays a main part about the destruction and removal of ERWs, non-governmental organizations are the main group that carries out these plans. Some of these NGOs include the Canadian Landmine Foundation (CLMF) which works to end the use of landmines and helps victims of mines to recover; the Danish Demining Group (DDG) uses many different tools such as impact monitoring and technical surveys to respond to specific mine issues; and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) connects authorities to the removal of explosive remnants of war and alerts them of the benefits of mine action. While the plans and action set forth by the United Nations has helped drastically reduce the issue, there are still many landmines left around the world which pose as a major threat.

III. Possible Solutions

Delegates, in this committee, you will have to discuss mine action and how it affects the people and the international community. The solution section is a vital part of the paper and should be the longest section. Please create comprehensive, creative solutions to allow for a great day of committee. The possible solutions for this problem must acknowledge the many different territories most affected by the effects of mine action. Additionally, your solution should address mine action in your country and what your country has done to solve it. Make sure to include what your country has already done with mine action.

A possible solution would be to increase the work of humanitarian groups in a given country through the spread of information about mine action and its' benefits. This solution could include the production of a new non-governmental organization that targets its' areas specifically on a given country, which would help increase the population and decrease death rates. This solution would be beneficial to a country that does not currently have much aid in mine action or does not have great healthcare. However, there are many other options that would encompass beneficial results for many countries but make sure to address the many issues regarding the negative effects of mine action as well as the positive.



IV. Country Bloc Positions:

Western: Very few Western nations are affected by the amounts of explosive remnants of war, however they are still in full support to help find proper ways to help solve this issue.

African: Africa is greatly affected by the amounts of ERWs located in many of their countries. This is a major problem that needs to be fixed.

Asian: Many countries have explosive remnants of war. They must consider using NGOs to help solve their problem.

Latin: Latin nations are hardly affected by the use of landmines and similar explosives. They have little concern for these landmines.

Middle Eastern: A large number of countries in the Middle East have explosive remnants of war, likely due to the many revolutions and wars occurring in this region.

V. Guiding Questions:

1. What are some ways that the production of ERWs can be decreased in areas where they are common?
2. How can mine action be perfected so it makes for less of a risk?
3. What are possible ways that the placement of ERWs be deterred?
4. Are there any allies to help with this solution?
5. What NGOs would help your country get rid of this problem?

VI. Possible Sources

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