

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR THE ELIMINATION  
OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS**

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**MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND  
ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION**

**New York, 4 April 2023**

It is hard to comprehend that even today, in 2023, landmines still pose a physical threat to thousands upon thousands of people all over the world. A cowardly, lurking, deadly presence that maims and kills children and stops whole populations from going about their daily business.

I joined the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), initially a three-year commitment, to support their gargantuan efforts to rid the planet of these invisible killers. Now, nearly a decade later as my tenure draws to a close I urge you, compel you, to continue acknowledging and supporting the essential work that the United Nations is doing. From clearing ground so children can play and walk to school without fear, to patrolling roads for peacekeeping, training local people in the skills they need to keep themselves safe, and rebuilding communities after the devastating results of war and conflict. UNMAS has a fundamental part to play in an ever-changing dangerous world. So, please do keep their essential work in the forefront of your minds.

It has been a privilege to work hand in hand with all the many incredible individuals who drive this invaluable organization towards the goal of creating a world that is free from the threat of mines and other explosive hazards.

Thank you for this opportunity, it has been an honour.