

Om den kommende danske støtte til UNMAS aktiviteter i særligt Irak:

The engagement will provide a further Danish contribution to UNMAS' activities in Iraq. The contribution will be provided through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund (UN VTF) for Assistance in Mine Action, where funds may be earmarked. In view of the immediate and foreseeable demands in Iraq, and the ability to work closely with Iraqi authorities, the Danish support will initially be earmarked for Iraq (as core support for UNMAS Iraq). The situation in Syria is more complex and the strategy is not yet fully clear, so the possibilities for extending the support to Syria will be assessed during the mid-term review in 2017.

The engagement seeks to counter one of the key hindrances to an effective stabilisation input, which is the large amount of unexploded ordnance and, in particular, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that have been left behind as Da'esh has retreated. Without concerted efforts to identify and clear ordnance and IEDs from residential and administrative areas, other critical stabilisation efforts will not be able to deliver and displaced people will not be able to return to their homes safely and, if they do, they will face significant risks to their well-being and livelihoods. There is evidence from both countries that, in the absence of qualified mine clearance operators, citizens are attempting to remove devices themselves, often with serious consequences.

In Iraq, the situation is particularly acute in areas liberated from Da'esh where IEDs have been used tactically to hinder the advance of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and subsequent recovery of areas. The capacity of the national and international non-military response to the UXO and IED threat is currently well below that needed for the task, although the full extent of this is unknown. Inter alia, there is a widespread concern that forthcoming ISF advances in Fallujah and Mosul could require substantially more capacity than is currently available. In such a context, the current inability of Iraqi authorities to declare areas safe from contamination will effectively act as a brake on stabilisation efforts (such as those provided through UNDP's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation, which Denmark also supports). This may, in itself, be destabilising as it opens up a vacuum following liberation unless local government control is able to be promptly re-established on the ground.

UNMAS Iraq is currently building up its capacity to sponsor a multi-year comprehensive programme response using multi-donor contributions with the twin aim of (a) reducing the risk of explosive hazards in direct support of stabilisation planning and delivery and (b) increasing national (Iraqi) capacities to manage the overall threat of newly identified explosive hazards in these areas. The expectation is that "blended" solutions that utilise a mix of contracted commercial and NGO capacities alongside a developing Iraqi capacity will be needed.

Leadership



Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Director of UNMAS

Agnès Marcaillou is the Director of UNMAS, the United Nations Mine Action Service, in the UN Peacekeeping Department (DPKO), where she oversees UNMAS activities in New York and Geneva, as well as in some 18 field operations world-wide. In this capacity, she administers the United Nations Trust Fund for Mine Action, and chairs the UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Group on Mine Action as well as the Geneva-based Committee on International Mine Action Standards.

During a distinguished career of 25-plus years with the United Nations, she has worked in the fields of disarmament and arms control, political and peace-keeping affairs, holding a variety of positions in New York, Geneva, The Hague, Iraq and Cambodia. She has served in New York in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, as Principal Officer in charge of UN regional disarmament and conventional weapons; as Secretary of the Preparatory process for the 2001 UN international conference on (the) illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; in the Hague, as Chief of Staff of the Executive Secretary of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; in the UN Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), as officer in charge of chemical weapons destruction and the disarmament of Iraq; in Geneva in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), as deputy secretary of the CD negotiation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

During her career, she also served as Deputy Spokeswoman for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and prior to that, in the Department for Political Affairs.

A Lawyer and Political Scientist, Ms. Marcaillou is a Laureate of the French Post-Graduate Institute for National Defense Studies (IHEDN), as well as a NATO Fellow and a Fellow of the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme. She is also known for her work on the advancement of women in peace and security and for her research on public-private partnerships.

Ms. Marcaillou has authored a number of publications in English and French.