

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting entitled “Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion”**

(12 December 2024, New York)

**Mr. Chair,**

Ukraine welcomes the convening of the Arria-formula Meeting “Safeguarding Lives, Sustaining Peace: Enhancing Mine Action for Stabilization, Protection, Recovery, and Inclusion”. We also extend our appreciation to Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and Mr. KEO Chhea, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations, for their briefings.

As of today, Ukraine remains deeply concerned by serious humanitarian risk that mines and explosive remnants of war pose to the safety, health and lives of populations, as well as personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation, reconstruction and mine clearance programmes and operations.

We are alarmed by the indiscriminate use of IEDs, including by terrorists, which remains a major threat to civilian population, safety of peacekeeping personnel, and effective implementation of mission mandates.

Ukraine also recognizes the important role of the United Nations, including the coordination role of the United Nation Mine Action Service, within the UN System, as well as other relevant organizations, in the mitigation of dangers posed to civilians by landmines, ERWs and IEDs.

**Mr. Chair,**

Mine action remains one of the key priorities of Ukraine aimed at ensuring the safety of citizens, restoring territories and promoting economic and social development.

As a result of the armed aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, 174,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the territory of Ukraine was potentially contaminated with mines and other explosive devices.

Ukraine verified and added to the interactive database the information on 754 incidents of the use of mines and ERWs by Russian troops in Ukraine which resulted in death of 318 and injuries to 769 civilians.

As of today, more than 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> have been surveyed and returned to productive use. However, approximately 139,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Ukrainian territories require further surveying and clearing.

Ukraine’s goal is to return 80% of potentially contaminated territories to productive use within the next ten years. To achieve this the Government of Ukraine adopted the National Mine Action Strategy until 2033 and a three-year Operational Plan for its implementation.

At the national level, Ukraine has undertaken the following important efforts in mine action:

- established a working group to promote the development of solutions to ensure inclusiveness and gender equality in mine action;
- developed recommendations on employment of persons with disabilities,
- have been implementing initiatives aimed at training and employing veterans.

Ukraine is grateful to all international partners for their generous support to Ukraine in the field of humanitarian demining.

In this regard, we appreciate participation of our partners and international organizations in Ukraine Mine Action Conferences held in Zagreb and Lausanne in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

These international events confirmed the importance of humanitarian demining in Ukraine as one of the key priorities of the Government of Ukraine in terms of the recovery and reconstruction of our country.

In this regard, Ukraine welcomes the decision of Japan to hold a similar conference in 2025, which will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening existing partnerships with various states and international organizations and attracting new states to cooperation in the field of humanitarian demining.

**Thank you, Mr. Chair.**