**BACKGROUND NOTE**

**Plenary Session 3: “Turning Intention to Action for Survivors”**

Date and time: 10:00 to 11:15, Thursday 7 February 2019

Chair: **Ms. Oksana Leshchenko**, Policy Specialist on Development and Mine Action, Crises Bureau, UNDP

Speakers: **Ambassador Prum Sophakmonkol**, Secretary-General, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

 **Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda**, Director, Tajikistan Mine Action Centre

 **Ms. Sarah Harrison**, Co-Chair, IASC Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Introduction**

Survivor and victim assistance is essential for individuals to recover and for communities to heal after conflict. Working with persons with disabilities, including victims of mines, aligns with the goals of the Agenda 2030, which emphasizes ‘leaving no one behind’. Survivor and victim assistance is an important means to further this objective and a core pillar of mine action and relevant international legal instruments like the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

UNDP has refined its approach to mine action, to emphasize*‘Development and Mine Action’,* as a support service to ensure that mine action contributes to developmentthrough, for example, empowering and protecting people and their communities; restoring livelihoods; and supporting peace building, recovery and development. Victims Assistance forms a key pillar in the Theory of Change of UNDP’s approach to evelopment and Mine Action.

**Purpose of the Session**

Showcase the examples and best practices from different parts of the world where survivors and victims benefitted not only from emergency health care, but also from other assistance, including psycho-social treatment and rehabilitation as well as the opportunities for development, improved livelihoods and social inclusion.

In the context of the 2030 Agenda, demonstrate that victim assistance contributes to the overarching goal of “Leaving No One Behind”.

**Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)**

Introductory remarks by Chair 10 minutes

Presentation by H.E. Prum Sophakmonkol 15 minutes

Presentation by Mr. Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda 15 minutes

Presentation by Ms. Sarah Harrison 15 minutes

Discussion and Q & A 15 minutes

Closing remarks by the Chair 5 minutes

**Food for Thought:**

* How assistance to survivors and victims contributes to the bigger agenda of “Leaving No One Behind”?
* What approaches of assistance to victims/survivors proved to be most effective?