

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE

--

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

New York, 4 April 2020

The tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible, this year, for us to gather in countries, across the world, to mark International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and to celebrate with community activities and events.

Now, more than ever, compassion and international assistance are needed. As such, we would like to express our deep solidarity with all those who are fighting against and affected by this dreadful virus. It will be conquered!

The mine action sector has always understood the importance of combining our efforts to eradicate the horrors, whether they are viruses or explosive hazards of war, that have plagued mankind. It is part of our DNA. Thus, we hasten to assure you that our commitment to continue to work to rid the world of explosive hazards has not faltered. We remain resolute!

On this April 4th, 2020, our special gratitude goes to all mine action personnel, UNMAS staff and others, who, in over 30 mine-affected countries, help rehabilitate health care facilities, keep access routes open for humanitarian workers, medical staff and peacekeepers and who enable communities to reach them safely.

Be blessed. Stay strong and healthy.

Agnès Marcaillou

Director

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Daniel Craig

United Nations Global Advocate for the

Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards