

## HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL DONORS' CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN DEMINING IN UKRAINE

CO-HOSTED BY

THE PRIME MINISTERS OF CROATIA AND UKRAINE

IN COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE SPANISH EU  
COUNCIL PRESIDENCY

ZAGREB, 11-12 OCTOBER, 2023

The International Donor Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine brings together global partners to address the pressing issue of Explosive ordnance (EO) contamination resulting from Russia's illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified aggression against Ukraine. The conference serves as a platform to unite nations and mobilize resources for Ukraine's recovery efforts, starting with the vital task of humanitarian demining. Croatia, having experienced the impact of military aggression first hand, co-hosts the event to demonstrate solidarity and support for Ukraine's recovery.

Ukraine stands among the world's most EO-contaminated nations, a consequence of ongoing conflict. Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) have led to significant casualties. However, the full extent of contamination remains obscured due to ongoing hostilities and territorial shifts. The process of humanitarian demining is extremely laborious and time-consuming, but it is the only way to guarantee that all EO mine-contaminated areas have been thoroughly searched and cleared from EO and safe to use.

The conference will provide a platform to present Ukraine's developments in strategizing and levelling up national mine action response – for instance, on forming National Mine Action Strategy, developing digital mine action products, enhancing prioritisation, and ensuring transparency and accountability for the donor assistance use. Simultaneously, it will emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive mine action in Ukraine by presenting best practices from mine action experts around the world.

A joint assessment by Ukraine's Government, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the United Nations estimates reconstruction and recovery costs at €383 billion, with the full humanitarian demining effort projected to exceed €34 billion. Confronted with many challenges, Ukraine relies on international assistance from donors for the humanitarian demining process.

With this in mind, the conference endeavours to secure substantial financial commitments from the international community to aid Ukraine's humanitarian demining efforts. These contributions will play a central role in the reconstruction of areas impacted by war, allowing displaced Ukrainians to return home safely and reviving economic and social activities. Beyond the financial aspect, the conference represents a unified effort to demonstrate international solidarity in Ukraine's pursuit of lasting peace, freedom, and the preservation of democratic values.

The two-day event will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Croatia, Mr. Andrej Plenković, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Denys Shmychal with the presence of Mr. Janez Lenarčič, representing the European Commission, affirming their commitment to the international rules-based order and support for Ukraine's path to lasting peace.

### KEY OBJECTIVES:

Presenting Ukraine's Demining Needs: The conference will highlight the gravity of mine contamination in Ukraine due to ongoing conflict and temporary occupation, emphasizing the immediate requirement for comprehensive mine action.

Sharing Global Expertise: Best practices from experts around the world will be presented, providing insights into effective demining strategies and solutions to address Ukraine's unique challenges.

Mobilizing Resources: Innovative strategies from international bodies and financial institutions will be explored to gather the necessary resources for Ukraine's comprehensive mine action efforts.

Presenting Ukrainian Developments in Mine Action Response: The conference will present developments on elaboration of the National Mine Action Strategy, digital mine action products, prioritisation of tasks, and ensuring transparency and accountability for the donor assistance use.

Expert-Level Discussions: Expert panels and roundtable dialogues will provide a platform for in-depth discussions on mine contamination challenges, Croatia's mine action journey, and international support mechanisms.

The International Donor Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine represents a critical step in expediting Ukraine's recovery. By presenting best practices from global experts and unveiling Ukraine's innovative Strategy for mine action, the conference offers a comprehensive approach to address the issue of EO contamination. As nations unite to provide substantial financial commitments, the conference underscores the collective commitment to support Ukraine's path to lasting peace, freedom, and the preservation of democratic values. Through shared experiences and a united front, participants will contribute significantly to Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction, and a brighter future.