

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

After several years of hard work in mine action, Lebanon continues to face a severe problem of ERW and UXO unexploded ordnances' contamination.

The excellent cooperation between the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the European Union, donors, and mine clearance organizations, has yielded the impressive clearance of 70.50% of cluster bomb strikes, 34% of dangerous areas, and 48% of mine fields (excluding the blue line).

The need for strong partnerships and continued support from the international community is as important as ever.

Despite the meticulous work on MRE over the years, and the particular huge efforts undertaken in 2013, Lebanon witnessed an increase in the number of new accidents and victims.

Ongoing MRE efforts target all community members, of different age, sex, and backgrounds.

Lebanon celebrates regularly the April 4 International Mine Action Awareness Day in line with international themes and actions. This year was marked by the launching of the European Union's MRE/MVA projects.

On a final note, the huge influx of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon is provoking a larger need for mine action, specifically clearance and MRE.

Thank you for your attention.