



WHEC UPDATE

Briefings of worldwide activity of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

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Lessons From The Field

Anniversaries are useful occasions for taking stock. On 24th October 2002, when our e-Health platform was launched in collaboration with The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) and The United Nations (U.N.), I had millions of doubts about this project. In fact the reality has completely exceeded my fantasies. And that is remarkable given that I can dream pretty big. 15 years later, it is a very well respected international journal in women's healthcare, and this initiative has captured many people's imagination. A great-big thank-you goes out to the Reproductive Health Division of the World Health Organization, UN Chronicle and the Working Group. On 24th October 2017, our e-Health initiatives **WomensHealthSection.com** | **WHEC Global Health line** celebrates its 15th Birthday – *A Global Strategy* to improve maternal and child health worldwide. We welcome everyone.

The UN was founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the UN are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its Charter. There are six main organs (Main Bodies) of the UN. These are: The General Assembly (Member States), The Security Council, The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), The Trusteeship Council, The International Court of Justice (ICJ), and The Secretariat (UN Secretary-General). All were established in 1945, when the UN was founded.

The opening words of the United Nations Charter are: 'We the Peoples of the United Nations.' This is the clearest possible statement that the United Nations does not belong to States alone. We live in an era in which international affairs are no longer dominated by States as the sole actors. The participants include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national parliaments, private companies, the mass media, universities, intellectuals, artists, and every woman, every child and every man who considers himself or herself to be part of the great human family.

Due to the powers vested in its Charter and its unique international character, The U.N. can take action on the issues confronting humanity in the 21st century more effectively and efficiently. We hope our efforts help in achieving these hopes and dreams, and much, much more.

Since 1946, ECOSOC has been the gateway for NGO engagement in UN inter-governmental processes on a wide range of sustainable development issues. WHEC was granted, *NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations*, in 2008. This consultative relationship is governed by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.

We are launching a new initiative title: **A Perception Change Project**. In this edition we focus on the plight of innocent civilians and children who are the victims of landmines, cluster bombs and other unexploded ammunition. *Broken Chair* symbolizes the fight to prevent armed violence against civilians during conflict. Approximately 10 people a day are killed by landmines and other explosives. Combining activities in the field of advocacy, mine clearance, risk education and victim assistance, we hope our efforts help the global action.

WHEC and its initiatives are no longer exclusively mine. It belongs to millions of readers, friends and followers around the world, who feel this is their project too. Luckily; the memories of the uncertainty and fear I had in 2002 are almost forgotten.

Almost.

Enjoy <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> and a great-big-thank-you.

Rita Luthra, MD

Your Questions, Our Reply

When and why the United Nations was founded? What are its ideals, its goals and the means at its disposal for reaching them? Why associate with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI)?

Building Partnerships: The UN, is a complex, somewhat mythical world which serves as the meeting-ground for political powers from around the world. It is unique among international institutions, considering the vast array of tasks entrusted to it. The UN is involved in all aspects of human activity; it therefore plays an important role in the international community, in spite of the inadequate human and financial resources at its disposal. The UN exercises a worldwide responsibility and yet, too often is little known by the general public.

As an NGO, you can gain world recognition and representation at the United Nations by becoming associated with either one of the two branches which work with NGOs and members of civil society:

- The United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI). WHEC is associated with it. We are a dynamic and growing community of more than 1,300 NGO organizations and a key resource of all UN-related information.
- The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is more specialized.

The NGO Branch of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN DESA assists non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC as well as those seeking status. The Committee on NGOs reviews applications for accreditation, as well as quadrennial reports from accredited NGOs, which are approved by ECOSOC.

ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies. It has [54 Members](#), elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. It is the United Nations' central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

International, regional and national NGOs, non-profit public or voluntary organizations are eligible to obtain consultative status, which allows access to ECOSOC, its many subsidiary bodies, various human rights mechanisms, ad hoc processes and special events organized by the President of General Assembly.

The Council was the first inter-governmental body to devote a special meeting to bringing all stakeholders together to consider policy recommendations to Governments on how to mitigate the global food crisis. The meeting was held with the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council. The Council is also considering issues related to cyber-crimes and security on an ongoing basis, including in 2011 and 2013. There are currently 4,507 (NGOs) in active consultative status with (ECOSOC) [\[list\]](#). Information regarding applications for consultative status, participation in meetings and events at the United Nations, accreditations and other matters is currently available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#).

Make your voice heard;

WHEC's e-Health platform, welcomes everyone.

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/WHEC_Global_Health_Line.pdf

Hope you join the efforts!

United Nations at a Glance

Permanent Mission of Dominican Republic to the United Nations



Dominican Republic became UN Member State on 20 October 1945

The **Dominican Republic**, is a sovereign state occupying the eastern five-eighths of the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean region. The western three-eighth of the island is occupied by the nation of Haiti, making Hispaniola one of two Caribbean islands, along with Saint Martin, that are shared by two countries. The Dominican Republic is the second-largest Caribbean nation by area (after Cuba) at 48,445 square kilometers (18,705 sq. mile), and third by population with approximately 10 million people, of which approximately three million live in the metropolitan area of Santo Domingo, the capital city.

Cristopher Columbus landed on the Western part of Hispaniola, in what is now Haiti, on December 6, 1492. The island became the first seat of Spanish colonial rule in the New World. The Dominican people declared independence in November 1821, but were forcefully annexed by their more powerful neighbor Haiti in February 1822. After the 1844 victory in the Dominican War of Independence against Haitian rule the country fell again under Spanish colonial rule until the Dominican War of Restoration of 1865.

The Dominican Republic experienced mostly internal strife (Second Republic) until 1916. A United States occupation lasted eight years between 1916 and 1924, and a subsequent calm and prosperous six-year period under Horacio Vasquez Lajara was followed by the dictatorship of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina until 1961. A civil war in 1965, the country's most recent, was ended by another U.S. military occupation and was followed the authoritarian rule of Joaquin Balaguer from 1966 to 1978. Since then, the Dominican Republic has moved toward representative democracy and has been led by Leonel Fernandez for most of the time since 1996. Danilo Medina, the Dominican Republic's current president, succeeded Fernandez in 2012, winning 51% of the electoral vote over his opponent, ex-president Hipolito Mejia.



The Dominican Republic has the ninth-largest economy in Latin America and is the largest economy in the Caribbean and Central American region. Though long known for agriculture and mining, the economy is now dominated by services. Over the last two decades, the Dominican Republic have been standing out as one of the fastest-growing economies in the Americas – with an average real GDP growth rate of 5.4% between 1992 and 2014. GDP growth in 2014 and 2015 reached 7.3%, respectively, the highest in the Western Hemisphere. In the first half of 2016 the Dominican economy grew 7.4% continuing its trend of rapid economic growth.

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC): 5th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum: Development cooperation: lever for effective implementation of the 2030 agenda. The implementation and follow up of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires the unequivocal commitment of the international community as a whole.

Developed countries can notably contribute by accomplishing their longstanding commitments regarding Official Development Assistance (ODA), including by establishing binding timelines for delivering such commitments and other forms of North-South Cooperation. ODA is still central for many countries, although its use and functions may differ according to each particular situation, needs and priorities. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we also see ODA as leveraging and sustaining financing for development in developing countries.

Details: <https://www.un.int/domrep/>

72nd General Assembly Session opened with focus on the World's People

The United Nations General Assembly opened its 72nd session, with an emphasis on striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet. As the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly opened on 12 September, WHEC takes a closer look at some of what's in store and at a few of the lesser known aspects of the Assembly's work.

"The UN was created for people," Miroslav Lajčák said in his first address as President of the General Assembly. "The people who need the UN the most are not sitting in this hall today. They are not involved in the negotiation of resolutions. They do not take the floor at high-level events. It is one of the tasks of the General Assembly to make sure that their voices can still be heard."



Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly. UN Photo

Every year on the second Tuesday in September, the world's governments come together in New York for the annual session of the UN General Assembly. They represent the 193 member States of the UN (as well as a few observer States). In UNGA, as the yearly conference is popularly known, all members, from the largest to the smallest, enjoy equal rights and privileges. Thus, Tuvalu's vote formally counts the same as Russia's, China's or the United States'. There is no veto, unlike in the Security Council, the UN's most powerful body. In comparison to the Council the Assembly has occasionally been portrayed as merely a talking shop. In fact, the Assembly, as the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN, has extensive responsibilities. It can even step in and act in cases when the Council is deadlocked.



The Assembly's agenda for this session included 36 matters of peace and security, including issues as diverse as the situation in the Middle East; Afghanistan; the situation in Central America; the question of Palestine; Cyprus, and the Comorian island of Mayotte. It will also look at the prevention of armed conflict, the role of diamonds in fueling conflict, the peaceful uses of outer space, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and peacebuilding and sustaining peace, among other questions.

The general debate attracts Heads of State and Government as well as other senior officials and dignitaries. The United States, as the host country, is always the second speaker. The order of speakers for all other member states depends on the level of representation, preference and other criteria such as geographical balance. Every country also has the same amount of speaking time – 15 minutes – to raise any topic or issue they wish to address. Many speakers find it hard to finish their statements within the given 15 minutes. Details: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57504#.WbvR6ZWWyUk>

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/-focusing-on-people---striving-for-peace-and-a-decent-life-for-all-on-a-sustainable-planet/5577645184001/>



In The News

Bureau of International Organization Affairs

The Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO) is the U.S. Government's primary interlocutor with the United Nations and a host of international agencies and organizations. As such, the Bureau is charged with advancing the President's vision of robust multilateral engagement as a crucial tool in advancing U.S. national interests. U.S. multilateral engagement spans the full range of important global issues, including peace and security, nuclear nonproliferation, human rights, economic development, climate change, global health, and much more.



The 72nd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) opened at the UN Headquarters in New York City on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. During this session of UNGA, the United States will have numerous opportunities to engage multilaterally and bilaterally to advance U.S. priorities in five key areas: addressing the threat to global peace and security posed by North Korea; deescalating the conflict in Syria; broadening multilateral counterterrorism efforts to defeat ISIS and other terrorist organizations; taking bold steps on UN reform; and bolstering support for humanitarian assistance to ongoing emergencies, in particular for refugees and the communities that host them. Check this site for the latest information and releases surrounding U.S. participation in UNGA 72.

Details: <https://www.state.gov/p/io/unga72/index.htm>



Donald J. Trump (USA) - High-Level Event on UN Reform
18 Sep 2017 - Remarks by H.E. Mr. Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, during the High-level Event on UN Reform co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of the United States, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

<https://usun.state.gov/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/18/remarks-president-trump-reforming-united-nations-management-security-and>



19 September 2017 – General Debate
United States of America
H.E. Mr. Donald J. Trump, President

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/72/united-states-america>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Dominican Republic



Health Situation

The Dominican Republic has an area of 48,661 square kilometers and occupies approximately two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola (Santo Domingo), which it shares with Haiti. The epidemiological profile is characterized by communicable diseases and chronic non-communicable diseases, among which high blood pressure is the most prevalent.

Among vector-borne diseases, the presence of the Zika virus can be confirmed in January 2016 (over 4053 cases were reported by epidemiological week 24, over 600 of which were among pregnant women). The chikungunya virus has been circulating for 3 years and is transmitted by the same vector as Zika and dengue. Dengue and malaria are endemic in the country. All dengue serotypes have been isolated and the malaria cases are attributable to *Plasmodium falciparum*.

Maternal and neonatal mortality remain a national health priority. The main causes of maternal mortality are eclampsia, followed by sepsis and hemorrhage. Child mortality has been stable in the last 10 years, although the figures remain high, especially with respect to neonatal mortality. There is no transmission of wild poliovirus, measles or the rubella virus. Neonatal tetanus is no longer a public health problem and diphtheria is being eliminated.

The Dominican Republic is among the 155 countries which switches from the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) to new bivalent oral vaccine (bOPV), which targets two strains.

The HIV epidemic is stable and mortality has decreased in the last 10 years. Tuberculosis is an ongoing public health priority which requires bilateral coordination, due to continuous movement of Haiti's population.

Cooperation for Health

The national Strategy for Cooperation (ECP) was recently the subject of mid-term audit (second half of 2015), which resulted in an addendum including various adjustments and additional approaches to coincide with the PAHO Strategic Plan for 2014-2019. International cooperation is primarily coordinated by the Vice-Ministry for International Cooperation under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.

International cooperation for health development has various sources, the World Bank being the largest contributor in 2010-2011. The flow of bilateral aid and aid from the Global Fund has been continuous over the years. Official development assistance for partner countries in the period 2002-2010 was provided by Germany, Canada, the European Commission, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United States of America, the Netherlands, Japan and the Nordic countries, among others.

The United Nations provides cooperation through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2012-2016, in which WHO/PACHO plays a proactive role.

Details: <http://www.who.int/countries/dom/en/>

Bulletin Board

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATION, INC.

A Partner to Promote Global Health

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATION, INC. (WHEO, Inc.) is not for profit institution promoting maternal and child health worldwide. Established on 1 December 1992 in *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts* (USA), the organization has been actively working to advance the causes of peace, health and development. It has vision to build infrastructure in developing countries and to create meaningful opportunities for girls and women to participate in global philanthropy. We embrace the tremendous diversity of people, religions, and cultures around the world.

In support of this belief, we have established academic and cultural focus at iconic institutions around the globe, to nurture our common interests and potential. By supporting reproductive health and research, open dialogue and objective analysis, we lay the ground work for mutual understanding among nations.

The research and educational efforts of the WHEO, Inc. are sponsored by unrestricted grant provided by Dr. Rita Luthra / Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) in memory of Mrs. Santosh B. Luthra – the best mother anyone can hope for. To be with her was a gift of love and joy, courage and generosity. The Organization's birth and my mother's birthday happen to fall on the same day – 1st December (lucky coincidence). Let me take this opportunity to brief you on some positive developments that have taken place in the past few years in our program (Continuing Medical Education) development cluster.

Meet our network – circling the globe everyday – for health and education.

The purpose of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) is to provide challenging curricula to assist healthcare professionals to raise their levels of expertise while fulfilling their continuing education requirements, thereby improving the quality of healthcare.

The philosophy behind this purpose is based on the belief that continuing education is a life-time

commitment requiring knowledge of current trends and developments in the science, technology and economics of healthcare.

We invite you to enjoy these courses for your personal development or share this publication with other healthcare providers.

UN Document E/2015/NGO/2:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/UN-Economic-and-Social-Council-Statement-E-2015-NGO-2.pdf>



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Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research) *Expert Series on Health Economics*

Economic Development Strategies in the Dominican Republic

The paper documents the economic development strategies pursued by the Dominican Republic. The study argues that the country's success results from the implementation of a three-pronged economic development strategy. The first prong relates to diversifying production and the second to developing special economic zones. These zones operate in parallel fashion to the rest of the economy but with protections from domestic impediments to growth and progress. The third item in the recipe involves maintaining ample economic and social engagement with the rest of the world. The paper also highlights challenges that the country faces going forward.

Understanding economic development strategies and how they affect the growth prospects of an economy is essential. But finding a recipe to promote economic growth and development that is applicable across countries is a complex task. The topic is the focus of a large and growing literature.

Continued success with the overall Dominican model will require that production within the free trade zones evolve from current low-skill production to higher-skill technology-intensive production. Low-skill producers will be egged out by the newer players entering the global market place. The ability to switch gears and move up the ladder will certainly come into play in determining whether the Dominican Republic continues to prosper in the longer run. Investments in human capital facilitate such progression and will help in fostering the creation of high quality employment.

It will be impingent on those in power to step up and prevent the rise in tension by ensuring that gains from the economic progress are more widely shared. Other significant issues, ranging from the role of savings mobilization and dealing with political economy issues to the importance of consolidating the institutional framework for safeguarding macroeconomic stability, mainly fiscal and monetary policies and their relationship to other parts of the economy, also merit further attention. Reforming fiscal policy institutions is also of great importance.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Susan Pozo, Jose R. Sánchez-Fung, Amelia U. Santos-Paulino; Acknowledgment: The paper was prepared for UNU-WIDER's project 'Country Role Models for Development Success'.

(Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>)

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)

*The Effort to Advance the Global Strategy
(Continued)*

Child Marriage Will Cost Developing Countries Trillions of Dollars by 2030, Says World Bank/ICRW Report

In a set of 25 countries for which detailed analysis was conducted, at least one in three women marry before the age of 18, and one in five women have their first child before the age of 18.

"Child brides are often robbed of their rights to safety and security, to health and education, and to make their own life choices and decisions," said Quentin Wodon, the World Bank's Project Director and co-author of the report. "Child marriage not only puts a stop to girls' hopes and dreams. It also hampers efforts to end poverty and achieve economic



growth and equity. Ending this practice is not only the morally right thing to do but also the economically smart thing to do.”

The analysis suggests that by 2030, gains in annual welfare from lower population growth could reach more than \$500 billion annually. In Uganda, the benefit from reduced fertility would be equivalent to \$2.4 billion, while in Nepal this would be almost \$1 billion.

The report confirms that keeping girls in school is one of the best ways to avoid child marriage. Each year of secondary education reduces the likelihood of marrying as a child before the age of 18 by five percentage points or more. Child brides are much more likely to drop out of school and complete fewer years of education than their peers who marry later. This affects the education and health of their children, as well as their ability to earn a living.

“Every day more than 41,000 girls marry before the age of 18. Poverty, gender inequality, poor access to quality education and to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, and a lack of decent employment opportunities, help perpetuate child marriage and early childbirths,” said Suzanne Petroni, ICRW’s Project Director and co-author of the report. “These will all need to be addressed for countries to successfully end this harmful and costly practice.”

According to the report, ending child marriage would also reduce rates of under-five mortality and delayed physical development due to a lack of appropriate nutrition (stunting). Globally, the estimated benefits of lower under-five mortality and malnutrition could reach more than \$90 billion annually by 2030.

Another important benefit from ending child marriage would be an increase in women’s expected earnings in the labor market. Due in large part to the impact of child marriage on education, women who marry as children have, on average, earnings that are nine percent lower than if they had married later. In Nigeria, this equals to \$7.6 billion annually in lost earnings and productivity.

Finally, budget savings would be reaped by governments in the cost of providing basic education, health, and other services. In many countries, thanks to lower population growth, eliminating child marriage today would save governments five percent or more of their education budget by 2030.

The Economic Impact of Child Marriage Project: <http://www.costsofchildmarriage.org/>

To be continued.....

Two-Articles of Highest Impact, September 2017

1. Poverty and Maternal Mortality; <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/heal/heal013.php3>
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to WHO, UN Chronicle and our editors for the contributions. Funding provided by WHEC Initiatives for the Global Health.
2. Benign Vulvar Skin Disorders: Part 1.
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gyn/gyn035.php3>
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to our writers and editors for compiling the review and helpful suggestions.

From Editor's Desk

A Perception Change Project

Broken Chair. Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



Outside the Palais des Nations stands a 12-meters (39 feet) high chair with a broken leg. It is monumental sculpture in wood by the Swiss artist Daniel Berset, constructed by the carpenter Louis Genève. It is constructed of 5.5 tons of wood.

It depicts a giant chair with a broken leg and stands across the street from the Palace of Nations, in Geneva. It symbolizes opposition to landmines and cluster bombs, and acts as a reminder to politicians and others visiting Geneva.

Broken Chair is an original project of Paul Vermeulen, co-founder and director of Handicap International Suisse. In October 1996 he commissioned the artist a monumental chair over 10 meters high, with a torn leg, to be installed on the Palais des Nations. The objective was to get the largest possible number of States to sign the Ottawa Treaty on landmines in December 1997. The sculpture was erected by Handicap International in front of the main entrance to the Palais des Nations in Geneva in August 1997, where it was intended to remain for three months, until the signing of the Ottawa Treaty in December 1997 in Ottawa. Following ratification by 40 countries, the Treaty became effective as an instrument of international law on 1 March 1999.

The failure of significant countries to sign the Treaty and the strong public support for the sculpture caused it to be left in place until 2005, when it was removed to allow extensive remodeling of the Palais des Nations. After completion of the work, it was reinstalled in the same place in front of the United Nations Office at Geneva on 26 February 2007.

The reinstallation of *Broken Chair* in February 2007 was officially dedicated by Handicap International to support the signature of an *international treaty on a ban on Cluster Bombs* (Convention on Cluster Munitions), which was signed in Oslo in December 2008. The work was the property of the sculptor until 2004, when he transferred ownership to **Handicap International**.

Facing the flags of the United Nations and its Member States, this *Broken Chair* is a monumental reminder that conflicts continue to maim and kill long after the guns fall silent. That even when civilians are freed from the horrors of war, they are still confined by the fear of landmines and explosive remnants of war. A fear that prevents a return to normal life: farmers cannot till, children cannot play and teachers cannot teach.

This reality is why we all @ WHEC salute the United Nations Mine Action Service and its brave women and men, who risk their lives to remove the deadly legacy of war. We should all make landmine action the focus of our initiatives and bring this vital issue to the forefront of global attention.

Since the founding of United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in 1997, it has cleared vast tracts of land around the world, educated millions in affected areas on safety and provided care to countless victims. An efficient and quick service, UNMAS makes it possible for the international community to rapidly deploy humanitarian aid to landmine-risk areas. In its work, UNMAS bridges the divide between humanitarian action and development. There may not be a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for mine action, but the removal of landmines and explosive remnants of war lays the foundation for a durable recovery and sustainable development: land can be farmed, roads reopened, schools attended and livelihoods earned.

Today, more than half of all states affected by landmines are Least Developed Countries (LDC), while the vast majority of victims are civilians. Mine action in these communities helps make sure that “no one is left behind”, that no community is cut off from the development.

In Afghanistan, for example, UNMAS is working with local authorities to clear 17.4 km sq. in Mes Aynak, a prerequisite for future multi-billion investments in the world’s second-largest copper deposit. The site could generate up to \$ 400 million per year and 8,400 jobs.



At its best, landmine action is thus a nexus of security, humanitarian action and development. This requires coordination and collaboration between a wide ranges of actors previously isolated in their own fields. The UNMAS office in Geneva plays a vital role in this effort, “triangulating” between the humanitarian and development actors in Geneva, UNMAS headquarters in New York City and landmine action programs in the field.

Since 2006, UNMAS and Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining have convened a biennial “technology workshop” to facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote innovation in the sector. In June 2017 this initiative celebrated the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Mine Action Convention. The campaign to ban landmines brought civil society and governments together, demonstrating the power of civil society to change the world. While fewer actors stockpile or use these weapons, conflicts continue to lead to casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war. In 2015, fighting in Libya, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen led to a 10-year high in these casualties.

As we continue to press for an end to these weapons, we @ WHEC continue to support this life-saving work, and we hope our effort help to repair a broken-world.

Words of Wisdom

DEATH THE LEVELLER

The glories of our blood and state,
Are shadows, not substantial things;
There is no armour against fate;
Death lays his icy hand on kings;
Sceptre and Crown must tumble down,
And in the dust be equal made
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.
Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in their dust.

- James Shirley (September 1596 – October 1666) English dramatist

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activities*

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/>

