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# Secretary-General

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## Biographical Note

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS CHRISTINE MCNAB OF SWEDEN AS DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRAQ**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Christine McNab of Sweden as his Deputy Special Representative for Iraq. Ms. McNab will head the Development and Humanitarian Support component of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). Ms. McNab will also serve as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. She will replace David Shearer. The Secretary-General is grateful for Mr. Shearer's leadership and contribution to improved coordination of the United Nations system in Iraq.

Ms. McNab will bring with her a wealth of experience in development cooperation from her work in bilateral and multilateral agencies with partners from Government, State institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Her experience has, in particular, focused on public sector reform, democratic governance and capacity development in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms. McNab currently serves as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative and United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She held a similar position from 2002 to 2006 as United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan.

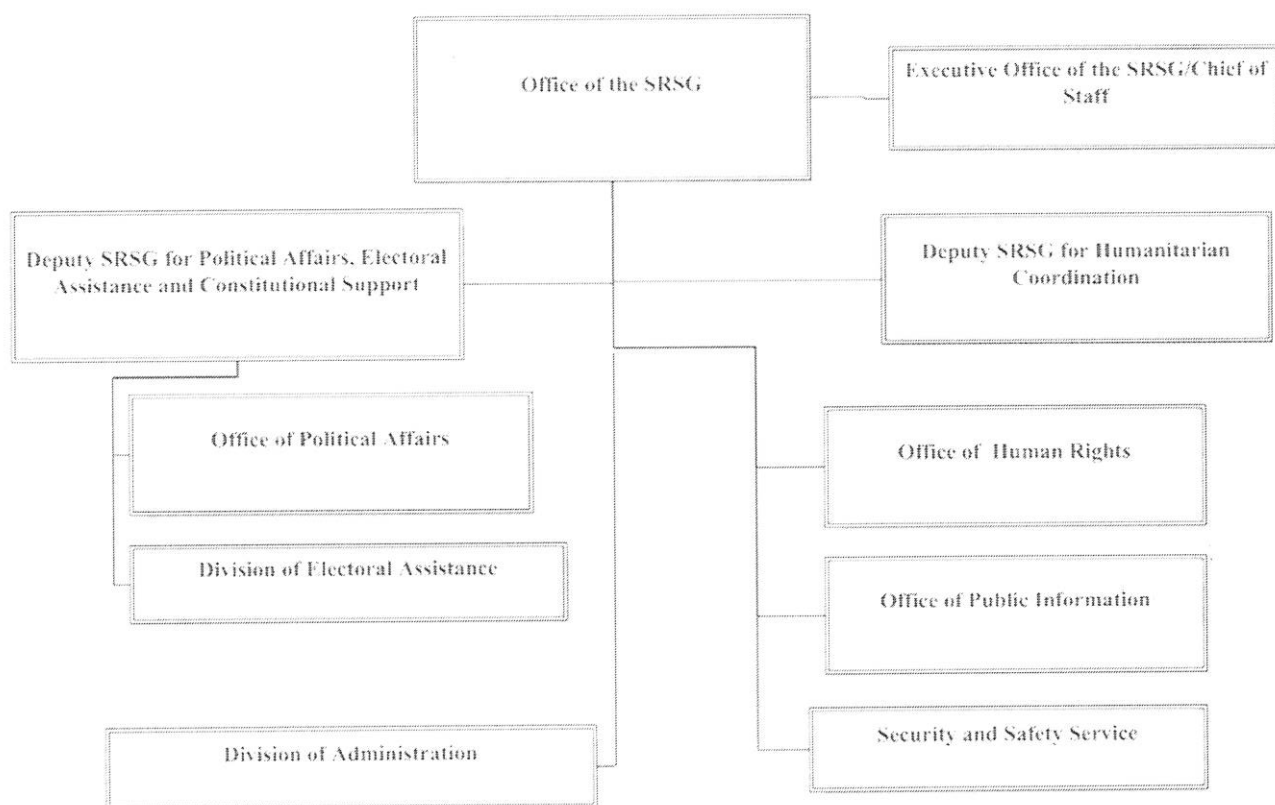
Before joining UNDP in 2001, Ms. McNab was the head of the Swedish development programmes in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, respectively, and had earlier served as a Senior Advisor on education and training for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Born in 1948, Ms. McNab holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and social anthropology from the University of Wales, and a doctorate in international and comparative education from the University of Stockholm. She is married and has two children.

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# United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq Summary



Updated 10/11/04

## Moving ahead to improve lives of Iraqis affected by landmines

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**Baghdad, Iraq, 5 April 2011** – To commemorate Global Mine Action Day, the Iraqi Ministry of Environment and the United Nations in Iraq held today a press conference on mine action in Iraq at the UNAMI Headquarters in Baghdad. Representatives of national, regional and international media outlets in Iraq listened and interacted with the Deputy Minister of Environment, Dr Kamal Latif, the Head of Humanitarian and Development Office at UNAMI, Mr. Daniel Augstburger, and Major General Hadi Athab, Director of Military Engineering at the Ministry of Defence, who briefed them on Iraq's continued commitment to building awareness on the dangers of landmines and clearing the country from explosive remnants of war, while supporting the victims who have been affected by them.

"Contaminated sites cover 1,730 square kilometres in Iraq and affect around 1.6 million people in over 1,600 communities in Iraq. Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major threat to the people of Iraq's right to life, liberty and security, and pose a particular threat to the country's economic development", said Ms. Christine McNab, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq. "The United Nations is committed to working with the Government and our partners in Iraq to address these extraordinary challenges, and support the Iraqi people in their path to a better future", Ms. McNab added.

"With a quarter of the world's mines in our country, we have seen how severely it affects the economic, political and social development of Iraq", said Deputy Minister, Dr. Latif while announcing at the press conference the implementation of a national development strategy this year. Dr. Latif briefed the media on the Government's efforts that contributed to 71 projects over the last few years. Raising concerns over the difficulty in clearing contaminated land, "there are no maps to indicate where the landmines are and with the random nature of distribution, it greatly slows down progress", he added.

Major General Athab provided the media with an overview of the activities carried out by the Ministry of Defence in this field, especially the landmine training school, located outside Baghdad, which trains the civilians and the military to work together to rid the country from this scourge.

With an estimated 20 million landmines under ground, according to the United Nations Development Programme, Iraq is still one of the most contaminated countries in the world. In addition to the efforts being exerted to clear the country from landmines and make it safer, many projects are being implemented to improve the lives and the livelihoods of the victims of landmines in Iraq. "Over the past three years, it has been possible for over 9,500 victims of landmine incidents to receive support from three orthopaedic rehabilitation centres in the north", Mr. Augustburger, told the press, while adding, "these centres have provided more than 8,500 ortho-prosthetic devices, 17,000 physiotherapy services, 7,000 mobility aids, as well as rehabilitation and business training".

Landmines and explosive remnants of war have a devastating impact on Iraq's children with around 25 percent of all victims being children under the age of 14 years. UNICEF's Representative to Iraq, Mr. Sikander Khan said: "Iraq's 15 million children have the right to grow up in a safe environment that protects their lives and well-being. Without urgent action to clear Iraq of all landmines, the thousands of children currently living in areas contaminated with mines and unexploded ordnance across Iraq will continue to be at risk of being maimed or killed as well as having restricted access to education, health care and water and sanitation they need to survive and grow up to realise their full potential".

Today's event also included an exhibition of photographs by acclaimed landmine photographer Giovanni Diffidenti and well-known Iraqi photographer Jamal Penjweny. The exhibit illustrates the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on the people of Iraq. It also shows how, with support from the international community, the government and the people of Iraq are working to overcome the tremendous difficulties caused by unexploded devices.

Iraq joined the Ottawa Treaty in 2007, which requires the country to eradicate landmines and explosive remnants of war from their land, by 2018. A great deal of work and commitment is needed in order for Iraq to achieve this. Priority must be given to this issue to allow an increased number of projects to be implemented throughout the country, to enable Iraq to develop and become safe. Through the combined efforts and cooperation of the government of Iraq and Kurdistan, NGOs and civil society over the past few years, an opportunity for change started showing signs of progress in Iraq with renewed vigour and energy.

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### About Mine Action

There are five project areas for mine action.

*Survey and marking and clearing of affected land* is an important first step in validating local concerns. With a site marked, this enables communities to avoid such areas and focus their efforts in places where that they know is unaffected, until such a time that the contaminated land is cleared.

*Mine risk education* who have been identified as living in dangerous areas helps warn people of the dangers, particularly children, who may find metallic objects partially visible from the ground very curious, and want to play with them.

*Victim assistance* helps those who suffered injuries from explosive remnants of war to deal with the issue where livelihoods have been severely affected due family member's incapacity. Centres like the Diana Orthopaedic rehabilitation centre in Erbil both help people deal with their disability and getting their lives started again through vocational training and small grants which can enable them to start a private enterprise.

*Advocacy* Actively supports a world free from the threat of landmines and encouraging countries to participate in international treaties and conventions designed to end the production, trade, shipment or use of mines and to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities.

*Stockpile Destruction* Helps Iraq destroy stockpiles of mines as required by international agreements, such as the 1999 anti-personnel mine-ban treaty.

#### **About UNDP's mine action programme**

UNDP supports the Iraqi Government and mine action organisations in clearing explosive remnants of war. So far 18.7 million square meters of land have been cleared from late 2007 till July 2010, helping 1,500 families return to their farms, and getting 2,400 children back to school. UNDP supports rehabilitation centres in the three Kurdish governorates that have given over 17,000 physiotherapy sessions, 7,000 mobility aids and over 8,500 ortho-prosthetic devices to mine victims. UNDP also facilitated income generation projects for 330 persons with disabilities. UNDP also supports the government in integrating Mine Action into national and local reconstruction and development work.

#### **About UNICEF's mine action programme**

Since 2007 UNICEF have been educating children and community members in highly contaminated areas across Iraq on the risks mines pose to their survival and well-being. To-date, over 300,000 people, including more than 150,000 children, have received mine risk education; 2,800 teachers have been trained to educate children on how to better protect themselves from mines and unexploded ordnance; 200 community volunteers have been trained to liaise with communities and monitor mine-related incidents ; and 60,000 public information materials on the risks mines pose have been distributed to high-risk communities. In coordination with the Mine Action team, UNICEF will continue to work towards the inclusion of MRE in the school curriculum as well as working with children, families, and communities, in highly contaminated areas across Iraq to empower them to better protect themselves from the menace mines pose to their survival and healthy development.

## Press Releases

**Consultations held on disputed internal territories**

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**Baghdad, 29 March, 2011** - A meeting took place on Sunday 27 March in Baghdad, under UNAMI auspices, to explore the idea of setting up a mechanism for consultation that would bring together concerned parties, with the aim of addressing pending and pressing issues related to disputed internal territories.

The meeting discussed that such a mechanism could serve as an important instrument to enhance stability and peaceful resolution of conflict, and enable all stakeholders to discuss and seek common solutions to outstanding issues. Further meetings including representation at the local level in the coming period were encouraged.

"UNAMI welcomes this important meeting and stands ready to continue facilitating dialogue and promoting negotiated agreements between all parties, especially at these challenging times", said the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Ad Melkert.

The meeting was facilitated by SRSG Ad Melkert and attended by Dr. Rowsch Shawis, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Hassan Al-Sunaid and Dr. Salman Al-Jumaili.

## Press Releases

**The International Community Submits the Iraq Briefing Book to Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki**

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Baghdad, 1 February 2011- On behalf of the International Partners Forum (IPF), the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Ad Melkert, the UN Resident Coordinator ad interim Mr. Daniel Endres and the Acting Country Manager of the World Bank Mr. Yahia Khairi Said submitted the Iraq Briefing Book to H.E.M Nouri al-Maliki, the Prime Minister of Iraq.

SRSO Melkert indicated that the Briefing Book was prepared by the IPF which includes the major donor embassies and aid agencies present in Iraq to assist the incoming government in their endeavor towards the reconstruction and development of Iraq and to provide a basis for future discussions on key areas of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister thanked the international community in Iraq for the Briefing Book promising to carefully study it and recommend next steps for engagement by the Government through the relevant ministries.

The Briefing Book is comprised of two parts. The first part addresses key policy issues, including: macroeconomic challenges, development planning and prioritization, governance and public sector reform, anti-corruption, private sector development, social protection and the challenges of regional cooperation and internal disputed territories. The second part focuses on the various sectors and cross-cutting issues, including: human rights protection, civil society and the media, gender mainstreaming, basic social services, water resources management, agriculture, environment, energy, transport and telecommunications and cultural heritage.

There are a total of 16 chapters for each of the policy issues with an outline of the challenges based on analysis of Iraq's context and experience, a presentation of recent and ongoing policy actions followed by a series of recommendations for further initiatives