The Deminer

This screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring:

**Hogir Hirori**

Hogir Hirori was born 1980 in Duhok, Iraqi Kurdistan. In 1999, he fled to Sweden and has lived since then in Stockholm. He works as a freelance photographer, editor and director. He runs his own production company Lolav Media. Hogir has been involved in several film projects such as ‘Victims of IS’ and ‘The Girl Who Saved My Life’, and continues to make gripping projects. The latest such project follows the life of Fakir in Iraq, as he works tirelessly to disarm various mines in order to make his country a safer place.

**Liesbet van Wijk**

Liesbet helps to spread the word of APOPO and educate the public about their fantastic work, especially their efforts to tackle mines across the globe with unique Hero Rats which aid in detection. She also has 9 years experience in human resources, working mainly as a consultant for various assignments in recruitment, selection, development, coaching and outplacement. She has a background in commercial activities such as prospecting and account management for a wide range of clients, both locally and internationally active. Liesbet has a Masters degree in Translations.

**Annick Hiensch**

Before her appointment at UNLOPS, Annick Hiensch worked for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in the UN Secretariat in New York. Prior to that, she worked for the European Commission’s Development Directorate in Brussels, the World Food Program in Rome, and NGOs in London and Amsterdam. Annick holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

**Deborah Seward**

Deborah is Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels. Prior to arriving in Brussels, she served as Director of the Department of Public Information’s Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters New York. Before joining the United Nations in 2011, Ms. Seward was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings in Berlin, Bonn, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague and Warsaw. She holds an honours degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Follow the discussion on Twitter and Facebook:

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UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit www.unric.org for more information.

Apopo’s Mission — To develop detection rats technology to provide solutions for global problems and inspire positive social change.

APOPO is a global non-profit organization that researches, develops, and implements scent-detection technology to combat global humanitarian issues. APOPO’s detection rats currently unearth landmines and sniff out tuberculosis in affected countries around the world. The rats are trained through clicker/reward methods, receiving tasty food treats when they identify explosives or tuberculosis. They are never harmed, because they are too light to actually set off any landmines and are cared for under strict animal welfare guidelines.

APOPO currently has mine action programmes in Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique and is preparing operations in Zimbabwe and Colombia.

This year we celebrate APOPO’s 20th birthday! APOPO and the mine detection rats have helped to find and clear more than 100,000 landmines and other explosive items, getting hundreds of thousands of people back on their land and their lives on track.

UNMAS collaborates with 11 UN departments, agencies, programmes and funds to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated response to the problems of landmines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions. UNMAS coordinates the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, which brings together working-level representatives of UN organizations involved in mine action to develop or revise policies and strategies, set priorities among UN players and share information.

The United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS) is a dedicated office based in Brussels since 2011 for developing closer, more predictable and continuous partnerships between the UN and the EU, NATO and other Brussels-based organizations on peace and security matters. UNLOPS contributes to stronger institutional dialogue and improved coordination on peace and security policy and operations. UNLOPS formally represents the three departments of the United Nations Secretariat in New York charged with overseeing international peace and security: the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs, and Field Support.