



*To His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations*

On the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, to be held this year on 4 April 2021, I offer prayerful good wishes for this important initiative of the United Nations Organization.

It is my hope that this yearly observance will lead to a greater awareness of the devastating long-term effects of landmines and other antipersonnel weapons on innocent civilians and entire communities. I urge leaders of nations and other international organizations to cooperate in taking the necessary decisions that will lead to a world free of these destructive devices, so that all persons, especially the most vulnerable, can live in peace, security and stability, in service to the good of all and care for our common home.

I likewise express my gratitude to the United Nations personnel and to all engaged in the dangerous work of mine-clearing and in assisting those who have experienced injury and the death of loved ones from landmines. Upon all I cordially invoke God's blessings of wisdom, strength and peace.

François

From the Vatican, 24 March 2021