



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meetings, 8-9 June 2017**

Statement Austria

2. Victim Assistance

Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance for the presentation and preliminary observations related to the Committee's mandate. Further Austria wishes to express its appreciation to the Committee on Victim Assistance for their excellent work.

Austria fully aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union on victim assistance (to be) delivered earlier (later) in this debate. Let me offer a few additional remarks from a national perspective.

The ICBL Landmine Monitor Report 2016 reports a decade-high number of casualties, and a 75% increase from casualties recorded for 2014. This is indeed most worrying and must be an inspiration for us to redouble our efforts to meet the 2025 objective.

Still, and after all the documented successes of the Convention, the accumulated number of survivors cannot but grow constantly over the years. This means that victim assistance is not only a task that will stay with us for the foreseeable future, but also one that will require increasing, rather than diminishing resources. It is therefore all the more important to ensure maximally efficient use of the funds available for victim assistance.

The Mabuto Action Plan rightly places emphasis on making victim assistance commitments measurable and time bound; on integrating victim assistance under the Convention in broader national and regional policies and frameworks for disability and development; and on the fact that victim assistance will be the more effective the more age and gender sensitive it is. In this regard we can only but welcome the Guidance on Victim Assistance presented at the 15 MSP.

Finally, let me emphasize that the area of Victim Assistance is one of the most promising when it comes to our endeavour to make best use of synergies with other international fora, such as the CCM and the CPRD. In this regard we particularly welcome the

Committee's initiative and enthusiasm to reinforce its cooperation with the CRPD and other relevant human rights and disability actors.

Sharing good practices and experiences across multilateral fora is certainly not only beneficial to the implementation of the aforementioned instruments, but most importantly to the victims themselves, by fostering their full, equal and effective participation in society.

I thank you.