

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Intersessional meetings
Geneva, 8-9 June 2017
EU statement on Victim Assistance

Madam Chair,

1. We would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their presentation and preliminary observations regarding the implementation by States Parties of their victim assistance commitments.
2. Casualties from mine incidents have decreased significantly since the entry into force of the Convention. At the same time, anti-personnel mines, including improvised mines, continue to be used and harm civilians. Over the last years, the number of casualties from improvised anti-personnel mines has risen sharply, especially in armed conflict areas such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen. More efforts are required in order to ensure that adequate assistance is provided to them in accordance with the needs of those concerned and that available funds are used in a more effective way.
3. The Maputo Action Plan recommends that victim assistance be integrated into broader national and regional policies and frameworks on disability and development. We encourage affected States Parties to continue to indicate in their annual reports, time-bound and measurable objectives which they seek to achieve through the implementation of their national policies to tangibly contribute to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society.
4. For the EU, victim assistance is a core component of its Mine Action policies. We agree that in order for victim assistance efforts to be sustainable in a long run, they need to be integrated into broader disability policies. Victim assistance will remain one of the key issues also after we have reached our common aspiration for an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025. Our goal is to ensure full participation of survivors in decision and policy making on issues affecting them, as well as their participation in all spheres of society, on an equal basis and in a sustainable way.
5. This goal can be better achieved when we coordinate our efforts with other related international instruments and norms and in particular with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In this regard, the EU would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for actively seeking to reinforce its cooperation with the CRPD and other relevant human rights and disability actors. The CRPD has