

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador, Mozambique)**

**Intersessional meetings  
7-8 June 2018**

## **PART 1: Introduction**

### **I. Activities of the Committee**

1. On 23 January 2018, the Committee held its first meeting to discuss the Committee's work plan for the year. During the initial meeting the Committee identified three core priorities for 2018 including efforts to increase quality and quantity of reports by affected States, strengthen synergies with human rights and disability actors, and increase coherence between office holders and those addressing matters concerning Victim Assistance and Cooperation and Assistance within sister-Conventions. The Committee furthermore agreed to increase attention to gender and the Sustainable Development Goals as these are interlinked to victim assistance (*leaving no one behind*).
2. On 9 February 2018, the Committee Chair wrote individually to representatives of States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control that had submitted updated information in 2017, and to those that had not, recalling *Maputo Action Plan commitments* and calling on States Parties to do their utmost to communicate relevant information by 30 April 2018. The Committee Chair noted in the letter the importance of transmitting information in a timely manner. The Committee Chair also requested States Parties to provide information on progress and challenges and welcomed States to provide additional information on how these take gender and Sustainable Development Goals into account when implementing their victim assistance commitments.
3. In a communication to States Parties, the Committee Chair reiterated that the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), which is mandated to provide advice and technical support to States Parties on implementation of the Convention, remained ready to support their efforts in fulfilling their *Maputo Action Plan* reporting commitments. The Committee sent letters to all 29 States Parties with significant number of mine victims, including those that do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva.
4. On 22 February 2018, the Committee held a Victim Assistance retreat to increase synergies and cooperation with relevant parties including the Victim Assistance Coordinators of the Cluster Munitions Convention and Protocol V of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, as well as with the Committees on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Cluster Munitions Convention. The retreat provided an opportunity to share plans and objectives for 2018, discuss respective thematic priorities, promote common understanding of respective actions, objectives and mandates, evaluate concrete opportunities for cooperation, and build a concerted victim assistance approach to support the promotion of common objectives. All participants saw this as a useful endeavour and agreed to continue and increase their interaction.
5. On 14 May 2018, the Committee convened a Briefing for States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. In line with the Committee's mandate, in part, to "provide advice and support in a cooperative manner to States Parties in the fulfilment of their commitments under the *Maputo Action Plan*", the Committee used the opportunity to review

commitments contained in Actions #13 - #18, offering its advice and support.

6. In implementing its mandate to, in part, raise awareness, in relevant fora, of the importance of addressing the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine victims in broader domains the Committee carried out the following actions:
  - a. On 14 February 2018, the Committee addressed the opening of the 19th Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in which it stressed the link between the work of the Committee and that of the CRPD.
  - b. On 19 February 2018, the Committee addressed a closed session of the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to discuss possible ways to reinforce cooperation between both Committees. Both agreed to exchange information (VAC conclusions) and to seek further cooperation opportunities.
  - c. On 25 May 2018, the Chair addressed the World Health Assembly on behalf of the Committee to support the adoption by the WHO of the resolution on *Improving Access to Assistive Technology* and highlight the importance of this initiative in providing support to mine victims.

## II. Methodology

7. In line with its mandate to support States Parties in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance, and continuing the work it had undertaken in 2017, the Committee gave particular attention to efforts by States Parties with mine victims to report on the following aspects of the *Maputo Action Plan*:
  - Assessment of mine victims' needs, availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims; and to refer victims to existing services where possible.
  - Time-bound and measurable objectives for the equal and effective participation of mine victims in society.
  - Enhancement to plans, policies and legal frameworks to meet the needs of mine victim and on budgets allocated for their implementation.
  - Enhancement of coordination with subnational entities and increased availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims.
  - Enhancement of the capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation.
8. In preparing its preliminary observations the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties in their Article 7 reports. Additionally the Committee drew from information provided by States Parties directly to the Committee.
9. The Committee also attached attention to the information provided by States Parties with mine victims on the way they take into account gender and the sustainable development goals in the implementation of their victim assistance obligations.

### III. Information provided by States Parties on victim assistance

10. At the close of the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties, 29 States Parties had reported significant numbers of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Of these, as of 15 May 2018, eighteen (18) submitted Article 7 reports: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe.
11. Of these States, 16 had submitted updated information on victim assistance activities in their Article 7 reports: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe.
12. Of these, one State Party – Sudan– submitted additional reports on victim assistance to the Committee.
13. One State Party – Burundi – did not submit an Article 7 report but submitted information on victim assistance efforts directly to the Committee.
14. Of the 29 States Parties that have reported significant numbers of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, at the time of writing, 12 had not submitted updated information on efforts to implement Victim Assistance commitments: Angola, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Somalia, Tajikistan, Uganda and Yemen.

## PART 2: OBSERVATIONS

### I. Observations of a general nature

15. The Committee is grateful for the information submitted on progress in implementation of victim assistance commitments by Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe.
16. While the number of reports submitted has slightly dropped by one report as compared to last year; there has been a general improvement in the quality of the information submitted by States Parties which demonstrates a stronger engagement in the work of the Committee. We encourage these States to continue providing high quality information concerning implementation of the *Maputo Action Plan*; the Committee looks forward to continued engagement throughout the year.
17. The Committee observed that casualties continue to be reported by States Parties and that in some cases the number of casualties has increased due to the use of anti-personnel mines of an improvised nature. The Committee observed the importance of States Parties continuing to report on casualties in a sex and age disaggregated fashion as well as providing geographically-specific information on the location of casualties.
18. The Committee would welcome additional information on the systems in place and activities carried out to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible in accordance with Action 12 of the *Maputo Action Plan*.

19. The Committee observed that while a number of States had reported having developed strategies and national action plans on disability and victim assistance, few States Parties had reported on time-bound and measurable objectives they seek to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13 of the *Maputo Action Plan*. The Committee encourages States Parties to communicate, on these efforts including through their annual transparency reports. The Committee further encourages States Parties to provide a copy of their National Victim Assistance/Disability Strategies and Plan to the Committee.
20. The Committee would welcome additional information from States Parties on activities undertaken to ensure the inclusion, full and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them, particularly as concerns national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation in accordance with Action 16 of the *Maputo Action Plan*.
21. The Committee observed that as the Convention nears the Fourth Review Conference it would welcome additional information from States Parties on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance. In this regard, the Committee welcomes information provided by States on challenges they faced in implementing their victim assistance commitments. The Committee observed that providing this information is of particular importance in order for the Committee to better assist States Parties in making their needs known and supporting their implementation efforts. The Committee further observed that States Parties would benefit from reaching out to the Committee and the Convention's Implementation Support Unit for guidance in the implementation of their Victim Assistance reporting commitments.
22. The Committee observed that most of the reports provided information disaggregated by sex and age, especially concerning casualties. The Committee would welcome increased information on policies and programmes to improve gender equality among mine victims and would invite States Parties to report on efforts undertaken in the implementation of all pillars of victim assistance, including in remote and rural areas, to improve gender equality. The Committee would also welcome increased information on how States take gender and the Sustainable Development Goals into account in the implementation of their victim assistance commitments.
23. The Committee noted that resources and funding for victim assistance efforts remains a significant challenge for States Parties in implementing their victim assistance efforts. In this regard the Committee encourages States in need of assistance to consider participating in the Convention's "individualised approach" led by the Committee on the enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance gathering States and organizations in a position to provide support.
24. The Committee observed the importance of engagement of health, human rights, disability and development actors to address the needs of victims in an efficient, effective and sustainable fashion; as well as the importance of cooperation between disarmament instruments which have victim assistance responsibilities to ensure that the different actors understand their specific role, highlight mutually beneficial opportunities and ensure that activities are mutually reinforcing.

## **II. PART II: INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES**

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Afghanistan**

25. The Committee welcomes the submission by Afghanistan of its Article 7 report for calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

26. The Committee observed that Afghanistan reported 2,054 mine casualties in 2017 including 305 women, 1,749 men, 1,137 children with 701 killed. The report indicated that between 2001 and 2013 the number of casualties fell significantly from a monthly average of 175 to 36. However, since 2013, the number of casualties has risen to a monthly average of 171 during 2017, with an average of 29 more casualties per month than in 2016, with 49 percent of casualties caused by improvised anti-personnel mines (Pressure Plate IED) incidents. This is 11 percent less than in 2016; the increased use of anti-personnel mines remains a major cause of casualties in Afghanistan.

#### **Assessment of needs, availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

27. The Committee observed that Afghanistan has initiated steps towards the implementation of Actions 12 and 13 by reporting that preparations have begun for a nationwide Victim Assistance/Disability survey, including the development of a “survey concept and questionnaire” as well as the establishment of a “technical committee for the nationwide survey”. The Committee welcomes such an effort by Afghanistan and welcomes additional information on Action 12 implementation including on considering “sex and age-disaggregated data” in the nationwide survey.

28. The Committee observed that while Afghanistan reported that preparatory work had begun for a nationwide survey, it also reported that due to lack of funding, a needs-assessment / survey it had planned to start in 2017, was postponed and that the programme is looking for funds. The Committee welcomes a clarification in this regard.

29. The Committee observed that Afghanistan reported on efforts made by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) to create a database on victim assistance and disabilities, which will be followed by training a number of MoLSAMD’s personnel on IMSMA. The Committee would welcome additional information on aims, relevance and implementation of the “VA/Disability database”.

30. The Committee observed that Afghanistan, with financial support from the World Bank, reported having established a biometric system to register families of martyred and persons with disabilities to facilitate payments of pensions and provide other assistance.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

31. Afghanistan reported that the MoLSAMD has started initial work to develop an Afghanistan National Disability Strategy to be finalized by the end of the third quarter of 2018. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives and welcomes information in this regard.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

32. The Committee observed that Afghanistan reported that the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has made efforts in developing or updating relevant policies related to physical rehabilitation to advance the integration of assistance into broader health services delivered by the Ministry.
33. The Committee observed that Afghanistan reported that it has drafted a “technical note for psychosocial counselling/peer support” which has been under review by the quality management department of UNMAS/DMAC. The Committee welcomes additional information concerning the technical note.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

34. The Committee observed that Afghanistan continues to act upon its commitment under Action 15 by reporting on the provisions of physical and economic inclusion services through broader frameworks as follows:
  - a. In 2017, the disability and physical rehabilitation strategy 2016-2020 was revised and continuously updated by the Disability and Community-Based Rehabilitation Task Force at the MoPH. The plan was approved and printed in 2017;
  - b. In 2017, the MoPH coordinated Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) with the MoLSAMD through a well-established strategy for inclusion, provision of equal opportunities, and empowerment of persons with disabilities with programmes in 20 out of 34 provinces;
  - c. In 2017, a physical rehabilitation project was designed and funded to provide rehabilitation services to 11,585 persons with disabilities through three Physical Rehabilitation Centres in Khost, Farah, and Kunar and one “Mobile and 2 Fixed” reaching persons with disabilities in nine provinces;
  - d. Through the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III) a donor-funded programme, a “total of 6,799 people received physical rehabilitation and disability awareness services” including 2,575 women and girls and 4,224 men and boys, and;
  - e. Through ACAP III, rehabilitation services were provided to 2,774 beneficiaries (1,977 males, 797 females) through direct purchasing of high technology devices and referral to physical rehabilitation centres; immediate assistance packages were (food and non-food items) delivered to 45,598 beneficiaries (22,962 males, 22,636 females); and Income Generation packages were (such as cows, motorbike-carts... etc.), delivered to 621 families (2,077 males, 2,662 females); and psychosocial counselling sessions conducted with 7,740 beneficiaries (4,369 males, 3,371 females).
35. The Committee acknowledges Afghanistan’s efforts to provide the information disaggregated by sex and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

36. The Committee observed that Afghanistan reported on its continued efforts to coordinate the victim assistance programme and that it held six coordination meetings in 2017 with the participation of “all key VA/Disability National and International organizations and line ministries representatives, including MoPH, MoLSAMD and [the Ministry of Education] MoE”.

### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

37. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had not reported on efforts under Action 16 concerning capacity building, inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in victim assistance programmes, and welcomes information on these efforts.

### **Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

38. The Committee observed that Afghanistan is acting upon its commitments under Actions 15 and 17 by reporting on awareness-raising among school teachers, as well as removal of physical barriers at schools in 2017, to facilitate social inclusions as follows:

- a. 1,160 teachers were trained in inclusive education in 20 provinces as an effort to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in schools;
- b. 50 schools were made physically accessible through the construction of ramps for wheelchair users;
- c. Agreements with MoE on the integration of inclusive education and messages on victim assistance and disabilities in the new national curriculum of school textbooks (grades 1-6), building on the success of similar efforts for grades 7-12 a few years ago;
- d. 500 children with disabilities and their parents were provided training with inclusive education and on the enrolment of 539 children with mental disability and visual and hearing impairment to schools in Kabul;
- e. 3,808 children with disabilities have been integrated into general schools in 17 provinces with technical and financial support from national and international organizations;
- f. Coordinating with civil society to raise awareness through public events and media work to promote victim assistance.

### **Measurable improvements, challenges and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

39. The Committee observed that as required by the Action 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, Afghanistan has provided a detailed analysis of the challenges its victim assistance programmes face and a general list of needs and activities based upon the identified challenges, as follows:

- a. Improve access to pre-hospital care by training of 3,200 first responders at 1,600 impacted communities;
- b. Establish 20 mobile and orthopaedic workshops in 20 provinces; mobilize sustainable funds for the existing nine centres and mobile workshops, and train female technicians and physiotherapists in all provinces;
- c. Provide direct support to children with disabilities to enable their access to schools, including through identification of children with disabilities, the creation of referral mechanisms, facilitation of their access to health, rehabilitation and social services;
- d. Raise awareness among community members and teachers on disability issues and rights in order to reduce discriminatory attitudes and practices;
- e. Support mine/ERW victims/persons with disabilities to start income generating activities, entrepreneurship and job creation and employ persons with disabilities in government and NGOs;
- f. Make existing public buildings physically accessible and advocate for amendment in construction legislation to ensure all buildings will be accessible. And raise awareness activities on accessibility;

- g. Provide individual psychotherapy sessions, set up mobile multi-disciplinary teams, therapeutic discussion groups, peer to peer support and therapeutic cultural, sports & leisure activities in affected communities that positively impact victims' mental health;
  - h. Train, support and supervise community and social workers, psycho-social counsellors, and other persons that provide mental health services;
  - i. Raise awareness on the victim assistance and the rights and needs of victims & persons with disabilities among key ministries and stakeholders;
  - j. Involve victims themselves as partners in awareness-raising activities and in the development of the National Action Plan from the beginning of the process, and;
  - k. Identify community workers or community health workers that can be trained to provide personalized social support at local level.
40. The Committee welcomes information on next steps, including plans for the development of time-bound and measurable objectives, as per Action 13, for the implementation of these activities in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Albania**

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Albania of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

41. The Committee observed that Albania had provided an update on the number of mine victims indicating a total of at least 1,002 (151 killed and 851 injured) stating an increase of four more persons injured from Albania's previous report. The Committee would welcome information disaggregated by sex- and age in this regard.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

42. The Committee observed that Albania is acting upon its commitments under Action 12 of the Maputo Action by reporting on the completion of a "Needs Assessment of Social-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania" in 2016. The Committee also noted that the assessment had aimed at reviewing the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and that the findings of the assessment were disseminated amongst the relevant actors. The Committee welcomes the data came out of the assessment, disaggregated by sex- and age, in line with action 12.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

43. The Committee observed that Albania reported on having a Victim Assistance Plan aiming to "support the mine and UXO victims throughout Albania" covering all pillars of victim assistance including "emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, data collection, relevant laws and policies". The Committee observed that it would welcome receiving a copy of the Victim Assistance Plan.

#### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

44. The Committee observed that Albania had not reported on efforts under Action 14 concerning enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their

implementation. The Committee encourages Albania to report on enhancements that have been or will be made to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks as per Action 14.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

45. The Committee observed that Albania is implementing aspects of Action 15 by reporting on efforts in relation to the provision of vocational training to 25 survivors, and maintenance of Prosthetics Workshops enabling the centres to provide prostheses and orthoses, which resulted to “at least 31 new prostheses and 41 major repairs were provided to amputees in need at the Prosthetic Workshop in Kukës Hospital and at 1481 physiotherapy sessions were offered to 135 patients.” The Committee would welcome additional information, disaggregated by sex- and age, concerning the increase in availability and/or accessibility to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

46. The Committee observed that Albania continues to coordinate its victim assistance programmes with stakeholders, by reporting that “all activities were monitored and coordinated by Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO) and carried out in cooperation with various implementing partners including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Kukës Regional Hospital, and Directorates of Public Health, UNDP Albania, International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF), University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia and the NGO “Albanian Association for Assistance Integration and Development” (ALB-AID).” The Committee noted that it would welcome information on strengthening local capacities related to victim assistance programmes and policies.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

47. The Committee observed that Albania had not reported on efforts under Action 16 concerning “the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation.” The Committee welcomes further information related to this matter.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

48. The Committee observed that as in the previous year, Albania had not reported on its efforts to raise awareness on the needs and rights of mine victims. In this regard, the Committee welcomes further information.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

49. The Committee noted that Albania intends to increase assistance to Mine/UXO survivors and other persons with disabilities and that it “has already identified for 2018 the financial gaps and needs in order to fulfil obligations under the APMBT, other disarmament conventions and the CRPD.” The Committee, however, observed that as required by the Action 18, Albania has not shared information on its plans to identify remaining challenges and priorities in advance of the next Review Conference and would welcome information in this regard.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

50. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine Casualties**

51. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the BHMAIS database was continuously updated and the information was available for use by stakeholders in accordance with Bosnia and Herzegovina's Law on the Protection of Personal Data. The Committee welcomes additional information, including on the number of new victims in the reporting period, disaggregated by sex and age.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

52. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on needs assessment and the availability and gaps in services and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on assessment of the needs of mine victims disaggregated by sex and age, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

53. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on its time-bound and measurable objectives and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on these matters.

#### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

54. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation. The Committee encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on enhancements that have been or will be made to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks.

55. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on a 700,000 Euros project that was financed by the Delegation of the European Union that will be implemented in 2018 by ASB, an organisation.

#### **Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

56. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was implementing aspects of the Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and economic opportunities, as follows:

- a. Through the implementation of four projects for mine/cluster munition/ERW victims, 90 persons directly benefited from assistance. In addition, the Association of Amputees of Republic of Srpska "UDAS" implemented a project for assistance in the field of physical therapy, which benefited nine persons;

- b. A social inclusion training program was conducted according to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 75 home visits were made to the victims of mine/cluster munition/ERW, and;
- c. In 2017 the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina financed a project in support of social and economic empowerment of 50 mine/cluster munitions/ERW victims and their family members.

57. The Committee welcomes additional information on types of assistance provided to victims, and information on all victims who have received assistance, disaggregated by gender and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

58. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on creation a Coordination Body for Mine, Cluster Munitions, and ERW Victim Assistance in 2017 and that it was expected that the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina will adopt the establishment of the Coordination Body in the first quarter of 2018.

59. The Committee welcomes the creation of the Coordination Body for victim assistance implementation, and it observed that it would welcome additional information on the enhancement of local capacities related to victim assistance programmes and policies in accordance with Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

60. The Committee observed Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on efforts under Action 16 concerning “the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation” and welcomes information on this matter.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

61. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including expanding equality services in rural and remote areas, and on efforts to raise awareness of the imperative to address the needs and guarantee the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner and would welcome information on this matter.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

62. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on its efforts on the implementation of Action 18, and would welcome information on efforts to identify challenges that remain and priorities for assistance, in advance of the next Review Conference.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Burundi**

63. The Committee welcomes the updates submitted by Burundi containing information on progress and challenges in its victim assistance programmes. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

64. The Committee observed that Burundi had not provided an update on new mine casualties and would welcome information in this regard, as well as on the total number of mine victims in Burundi, including “sex and age-disaggregated data”.

### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

65. The Committee observed that Burundi is acting upon its commitments under Action 12 of the Maputo Action by reporting on data collection in ten provinces of the country, as follows:
- a. The Directorate General of Civil Protection through DAHMI has collected data on mine victims in the following provinces: MAYOR, DUBANZA, CIBITOKÉ, MURAMVYA, MWARO, NGOZI, RUMONGE, RUTANA, BUJUMBURA, and GITEGA, and as a result 481 mine victims were identified.
  - b. 481 mine victims were identified to be in need of assistance.
66. While acknowledging Burundi's efforts in identifying mine victims and their needs, the Committee would welcome sex- and age disaggregated information on the 481 identified victims and information on types and magnitude of their needs.

### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

67. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society and would welcome information on this matter.

### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

68. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts under Action 14 concerning enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation, and would encourage Burundi to report on enhancements that have been or will be made to integrate victim assistance into broader contexts.

### **Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

69. The Committee noted that Burundi is acting upon aspects of Action 15 by reporting on direct provisions of assistive products and in-kind assistance to mine victims, as follows:
- a. Mine victims were provided with 40 wheelchairs, 18 tricycles and two prostheses, and;
  - b. Mine victims were provided with 126 cartons of soap and one ton of rice.
70. The Committee would welcome sex- and age-disaggregated information on mine survivors benefited from assistive products and economic supports, and it would also encourage Burundi to report on efforts, as per Action 15, to increase availability of and accessibility to comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age.

### **Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

71. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims and would welcome information on these matters.

### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

72. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts to enhance the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation, and would welcome information in this regard.

### **Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

73. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts to raise awareness on the needs and rights of mine victims and to remove physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, and would encourage Burundi to report on these matters.

### **Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

74. The Committee observed that Burundi is acting on aspects of the imperatives under Action 18 by providing information concerning challenges facing mine victims and the country's victim assistance programme, as follows:

- a. An overarching challenge is insufficient resources, as victim assistance does not receive the same priority as other pillars of mine action. This has affected Burundi's plan to set up a mechanism and structure for victim assistance programme;
- b. The integration of victim assistance, including integration of care, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims have been undertaken at a slow pace, as victim assistance is seen as the exclusive responsibility of mine action authority. The report also stated that delay in integrating victim assistance into broader contexts, is also due to lack of priority given to victim assistance by stakeholders;
  - i. Sometimes services offered to victims do not correspond to the needs of victims in terms of quantities and/or qualities, and;
  - ii. Lack of inclusion and participation of landmine survivors in decision-making processes and lack of reliable data have added upon the list of challenges in victim assistance in Burundi.

75. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported any efforts to overcome the identified challenges in advance of the next Review Conference, and encourages Burundi to report in this regard.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Cambodia**

76. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

77. The Committee observed that Cambodia provided an update on the number of new mine victims with 56 victims registered in 2017, including 5 women, 35 men, 4 girls and 13 boys. Of this total, 10 persons were killed and 48 persons were injured, with 13 of the injured suffered amputations.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

78. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported on a primary data collection or Quality of Life Survey (QLS) of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities, covering 652 villages, 124 communes, 50 districts in 25 provinces, with direct interview conducted with 4,862 persons with disabilities (1,635 women) including 1,066 mine/ERW survivors (88 women). The report indicated that the survey found that most of the survivors met received assistance and few of them lack access to services.
79. The Committee welcomes a clarification on whether the 4,862 persons with disabilities interviewed by the QLS, is in addition to 7,860 persons with disabilities reported last year, or additional. Also, the Committee would welcome further information on the number of mine victims, and persons with disabilities lacking access to services, and information on assessment of gaps in mainstreaming and specialised services.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

80. The Committee observed that Cambodia is acting upon its commitments under Action 13, by reporting the followings:
- a. A National Disability Strategy Plan for the period of 2018-2022 was developed and it will be adopted in 2018;
  - b. The 2009 Law on the protection and the promotion of the right of persons with disabilities guarantees the rights of all persons with disabilities in the country;
  - c. The National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 which was adopted in 2017 contains objectives in relation to survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war as well as indirect victims, ensuring adequate and gender-sensitive medical and psychological care and physical rehabilitation;
  - d. The National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 emphasizes institutional capacity development, knowledge, professional skills, job creation, and a gradual move towards elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against persons with disabilities, and responsibility of institutions in charge of implementation at both national and sub-national levels.
81. The Committee welcomes copies of the action plans and the law in electronic format.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

82. The Committee observed that Cambodia is implementing aspects of Action 14, including by embedding victim assistance into disability and development laws and plans, and by highlighting victim assistance in the National Mine Action strategy 2018-2025, and welcomes information on allocation of budgets for their implementation.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

83. The Committee observed that Cambodia is acting upon commitments under Action 15 by reporting on assistance provided to survivors and persons with disabilities in areas of health, rehabilitation, psychological recovery, social and economic inclusion, as follows:
- a. Medical care and rehabilitation support provided to survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war and persons with disabilities, including physiotherapy and surgery, provided to 10,488 persons; delivery of physical rehabilitation assistance such as prosthetics, orthotics,

wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches canes and walking frames provided to 27,111 persons,

- b. Physical Rehabilitation Centres produced and repaired 26,185 assistive products;
- c. Community-based psychological rehabilitation provided to 14,524 persons with disabilities, those in need were referred to services such as education, healthcare, disability empowerment, prostheses, orthotics, and wheelchairs/tricycles distributed and repaired, gender training, job placement, small business management, formation of self-help groups and provided with small grants;
- d. Training and access to education activities for 232 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors enrolled to primary schools; 71 persons provided with vocational training; 17 persons trained on management of small business; 35 survivors were selected for vocational training coordinated by the CMAA, and;
- e. Social and economic support for persons with disabilities and survivors resulted in 45 persons receiving support in participating in sports and other community activities, 20 persons receiving grants to create their small business.

#### **Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

84. The Committee observed that Cambodia has undertaken activities to improve national capacities and coordination in relation to assistance to mine victims, by reporting the followings:

- a. Training provided to 176 persons in Kep and Svay Rieng provinces to improve data collection when registering or surveying persons with disabilities;
- b. Equipment and training to 48 survivor networks' volunteers to support data collection, policy development and planning, coordination and peer support among volunteers with funding provided by Canada;
- a. Training provided to survivors to enhance job and work skills;
- b. CMAA continued playing an important role to coordinate with relevant stakeholders any support provided to mine/ERW survivors;
- c. Disability Action Council (DAC) and the Ministry of Social Affairs Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation continued being key to coordinate with persons with disabilities including mine/ERW survivors, and;
- d. CMAA helped in establishing a coordinating body at the sub-national level, and creating working groups on disabilities at relevant ministries and institutions in order to promote the enforcement of regulatory framework relating to disabilities.

#### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

85. The Committee observed that Cambodia had not reported on the participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation, and welcomes information on this matter.

#### **Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

86. The Committee observed that Cambodia reported on efforts to raise awareness at national and sub-national levels, including raising awareness among 134 mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities, and welcomes information on activities that help to remove barriers facing mine victims.

#### **Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

87. The Committee noted that Cambodia reported measurable improvements in the delivery of assistance to survivors and persons with disabilities, and welcomes information on remaining challenges and priorities in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.
88. The Committee observed that Cambodia remains committed to providing financial support to CMAA, especially to the Victim Assistance Department with an amount approximately \$250.000 each year for the implementation of the following activities:
- a. Quality of Life Survey (QLS) through 48 volunteer survivor networks;
  - b. Public disability forum to promote the rights and address the needs of persons with disabilities include mine/ERW victims;
  - c. Disaggregated data on mine/ERW victims, including services received from physical rehabilitation centres to be recorded in the CMAA database;
  - d. Engagement with local authorities to promote disseminating the law on the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and other government policies supporting persons with disabilities;
  - e. Case study and assessment of the process and implementation of the self-help group which are persons with disabilities includes mine/ERW victims, and;
  - f. Emergency response to mine/ERW victims.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Chad**

89. The Committee welcomes the submission by Chad of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

90. The Committee observed that Chad reported a total 136 mines/ERW casualties, including 33 killed and 113 injured in Borkou and Tibesti regions in 2017, which shows a significant increase in comparison to 27 casualties reported in 2016. The Committee welcomes this information disaggregated by sex and age.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

91. The Committee observed that Chad reported on assessment of mine victims in Borkou and Tibesti in 2017, and indicated that in general victims face rising problems of access to services of all kinds, including due to inaccessibility of roads that hinder service delivery to victims and their referral to services, and welcomes information on any efforts carried out to address these challenges.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

92. The Committee observed that a time-bound five-year plan of action that was developed in 2016 in Chad, was still awaiting validation at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and encourages Chad to review the relevance of the plan given the two-years have passed from the time it was developed, and adopt it. The Committee welcomes a copy of the plan, once validated.

#### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

93. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported on any efforts to integrate victim assistance into broader contexts and allocation of resources in this regard, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

94. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported on commitments outlined under Action 15, neither it reported on recommendations made by the Committee in 2017 in relation to Chad's efforts to address the following challenges reported in 2016:

- a. Lack of technical expertise in rehabilitation, education and economic integration;
- b. Lack of facilities and equipment for medical care, rehabilitation, education, and economic integration;
- c. Lack of coordination of victim assistance and social and cultural barriers which impede the participation and interaction of persons with disability in society.

95. The Committee encourages Chad to fulfil its commitments under Action 15 and report on plans and activities addressing the reported challenges.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

96. The Committee observed that Chad reported on efforts to coordinate victim assistance with the participation of stakeholders in the Coordination Group for Victim Assistance (CGVA), but had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on this matter.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

97. The Committee observed that Chad reported that in 2016 it was agreed that the CGVA would be composed of two organizations of persons with disabilities involved in victim assistance issues along with the Mine Action Centre, the Directorate for the Integration of Victims Persons with Disabilities, the National Centre for Equipment and Rehabilitation and Humanity & Inclusion to follow up the implementation of the victim assistance action plan, but the action plan had remained invalidated.

98. The Committee welcomes information on Chad's efforts to include mine victims in victim assistance activities and other relevant programmes and forums, such as disability policies and programmes.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

99. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported any efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other forms of barriers, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

100. The Committee encourages Chad to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to

achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the 2019 Review Conference.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Colombia**

101. The Committee welcomes the submission by Colombia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017, containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

102. The Committee observed that Colombia reported 56 mine victims in 2017, including 50 male, 6 female, and 10 children. The reported indicated that by the end of 2017, 3,440 persons with disabilities registered had been caused by mines/explosive remnants of war or unexploded ordinance, and welcomes additional information, disaggregated by sex and age.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

103. The Committee observed Colombia was acting upon requirements of Action 12 by reporting on efforts to collect comprehensive data and improving mechanisms for the implementation of victim assistance, by reporting as follows:

- a. A functional data collection mechanism, such as a surveillance system in public health is in place and it is operated by the National Institute of Health. The surveillance system collects comprehensive data including on characteristics and causes of injuries such as anti-personnel mines;
- b. Based on the data collected, the reported stated that in 2017, 12.5% of all injuries registered in the surveillance system were caused by anti-personnel mines, along with more details on age groups and location of accidents;
- c. An information service on survivors of anti-personal mines (SISMAP) was created in 2017, to strengthen and improve data collection, information analysis, monitoring and follow up among other activities;
- d. Since SISMAP was launched, the system has helped to identify 1,691 victims, providing a better understanding of the victims' situation which has contributed to better formulate policies and programmes, and;
- e. With the aim of filling service gaps, several initiatives relating to surveillance, health, social security, and the elimination of discrimination and marginalization were reported.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

104. The Committee observed that Colombia reported having a plan on victim assistance developed by the Technical Subcommittee on Victim Assistance in the framework of the National Inter-Sectoral Committee for Action against Mines (CINAMAP) with the participation of stakeholders, including survivors and their representative organizations. The Committee observed that Colombia was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 through continued efforts to identify victims' needs, increased efforts to strengthen implementation and monitoring mechanisms, including for inclusion and participation of mine victims throughout the country. The Committee welcomes an electronic copy of Colombia's plan on victim assistance.

#### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

105. The Committee observed that Colombia was acting upon its commitments under Action 14, including through engaging health service providers, health surveillance, social protection, recreation and sports sectors, education, municipalities, organisations of persons with disabilities in strengthening, developing, delivery, monitoring and follow up of assistance to mine victims and other persons with disabilities, and by the followings:

- a. Six circulars, decrees and resolutions were issued by the government in bringing improvements in assistance provided to mine victims including in areas of administrative processes, health and rehabilitation, sexual and reproductive rights, inclusive education and provision of education in a non-discriminatory approach, and the right to employment and work in public entities;
- b. A total of COP \$ 1.8 billion was allocated to victims in 2017, with COP \$ 16,000,000,000 to health sector with a focus to increase access to health services for victims of armed conflict, including COP \$ 6,370,000,000 for psychological support of mines/explosive remnants of war victims, and;
- c. The Ministry of Labour had started bringing adjustments to labour policies to ensure persons with disabilities have access to reasonable and decent employment and work.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

106. The Committee observed that Colombia was implementing requirements outlined under Action 15 to increase availability of and accessibility to services, by reporting as follows:

- d. Improved policies, service delivery procedures, coordination and the overall rights of persons with disabilities including mine victims ;
- e. In accordance with the transformative reparation approach of Law 1448 (Victims and Land Restitution Law) efforts continued to improve the quality of life of victims of conflict, including mine victims;
- f. In response to a request made by the District Association of Survivors of Anti-Personnel Mines (ANT), the Government awarded 22 families, victims of conflict including seven mine victims, with rural properties in the Armero Guayabal municipality, Department of Tolima;
- g. While access to comprehensive care has improved, the report indicated the need for further efforts to enhance access to health care, including by undertaking awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities, and;
- h. Targeted efforts to increase attention in support of children and adolescents victims of armed conflicts, including mine victims.

107. The Committee would welcome on information on mine victims that have benefited from these services disaggregated by sex and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

108. The Committee observed that Colombia was acting upon its commitments by developing survivors' and their organisations' capacities through various means, including comprehensive post-conflict training – the latter provided to affected populations in Colombia. Colombia reported on well-established mechanisms such as the technical committee on victim assistance, General System of Social Security in Health, and comprehensive support including capacity building provided by the mine action centre, in coordination with stakeholders.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

109. The Committee observed that Colombia was implementing Action 16 by providing opportunities for inclusion and participation of mine victims and persons with disabilities through coordination mechanisms in place, including supporting organizations representing persons with disabilities, regular meetings with victims, and promoting peer support through their respective networks.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

110. The Committee observed that Colombia was acting upon its commitments under Actions 15 and 17 by reporting on awareness raising and enhancing implementation support mechanisms to expand services and increase the reach of mine victims to services they need.

**Measurable improvements, challenges and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

111. The Committee observed that Colombia has undertaken a comprehensive programme and indicated significant improvement in policies, plans, and service delivery. This included mapping out some remaining challenges including in access to services, provision of comprehensive care and victim reparation, access to rights and overall empowerment of victims. The Committee encourages Colombia to continue its efforts to achieve Actions 12-18 of *the Maputo Action Plan* by the upcoming Review Conference.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

112. The Committee welcomes the submission by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of its Article 7 report for the period of 2014 to 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

113. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported 156 mine casualties, disaggregated by sex and age, including 44 in 2014, 16 in 2015, 36 in 2016, 51 in 2017 and 9 in 2018 in North Kivu, South Kivu, Kasai-Central, Kasai, Upper Lomami, Ituri and Upper Uele provinces, which have increased the total number of registered mine victims in the country to 2,719.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

114. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported continued efforts to identify and register new mine victims, and would welcome information on the results of the National Strategic Plan developed in 2010 to assist victims, including improving the data collection and systems to analyse data. The Committee would also welcome information on efforts to assess the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialised services, disaggregated by sex and age.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

115. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that since the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan, the country had not updated previous plans or developed a new plan of action for the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan, and encourages the

Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop a time-bound and measurable plan of action to achieve the objectives outlined under Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

116. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not reported on efforts to implement Action 14, and welcomes information on this matter.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

117. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported on the availability of rehabilitation assistance in collaboration with the ICRC and Heri Kwetu Orthopedic Centres in Bukavu (South Kivu Province), Kalembe-lembe and the Centre for Disability in Kinshasa, Shirika la Umoja in Goma (North Kivu Province), University Clinics of Kinshasa and Jukay Centre in Kananga (Kasai-Central), and welcomes additional information, disaggregated by sex- and age, on mine victims that have benefited from these services.

118. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that since 2012 there has been a lack of post-traumatic rehabilitation programmes, psychological support, economic reintegration assistance and social reintegration and would welcome information on current or planned efforts to make such services available to all mine victims.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

119. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that the Victim Assistance Coordination Group that was led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity has been inactive as a result of a restructuring of the Ministry in 2016, and that in January 2018, the Congolese Mine Action Centre has activated the coordination group on victim assistance. The Committee would welcome information on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance sub-national coordination of victim assistance efforts.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

120. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that victims' associations have always been involved in all activities that concern them as well as in other activities of the mine action programme, and welcomes additional information on frequency and level of participation of mine victims, including in mine-affected provinces.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

121. The Committee observed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not reported on actions taken to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, or raising awareness on the rights of mine victims, and welcomes any information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

122. The Committee observed that the report outlines a number of challenges such as the absence of a victim assistance action plan since the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan, discontinuation of projects concerning post-traumatic rehabilitation, psychological support,

economic and social reintegration, and social reintegration as well as a lack of coordination due to inactiveness of the victim assistance coordination group, which has been re-launched in early 2018.

123. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Croatia**

124. The Committee welcomes the submission by Croatia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

125. The Committee observed that Croatia reported no mine accidents and/or related casualties in 2017.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

126. The Committee observed that Croatia was acting upon its commitments under Action 12 by reporting on the following aspects of its efforts to assess the needs of mine victims, and to strengthen mechanisms for providing increased assistance to mine victims:

- a. Continued “advisory support to mine victims and their families” and data collection on mine victims and their needs during the process of the non-technical survey since 2014, in order to establish a “unique Mine Victim Database”, and;
- b. Efforts to create a Mine Victim Database will be financed through the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation programme and it will be implemented by the "Demining and Socio-economic Integration" project with a goal of establishing functional mine victims’ database to serve as a basis for developing further and strengthening policy actions in support of mine victims.

127. The Committee commends Croatia for reporting on its strategic efforts to collect data on mine victims, and it observed that it would welcome additional information on the status and use of the Mine Victim Database as well as information on the results of data that have been collected concerning mine victims and their needs since 2014, disaggregated by sex- and age.

128. The Committee observed that it would encourage Croatia to report on efforts to assess the availability and gaps in services, on existence and functions of referral mechanisms which facilitate mine victims’ access to services, and would also welcome additional information regarding the advisory supports provided to mine victims and their families, disaggregated by sex- and age.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

129. The Committee observed that Croatia had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society and would encourage submission of a time-bound and measurable plan.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

130. The Committee observed that Croatia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the provision of assistance to mine victims through broader health care services and institutions, as follows:

- a. The country has developed public health care structure that includes clinics, clinical centres, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres, and that all victims are entitled to health protection and orthopaedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute;
- b. These rights, namely access to health care services, are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations, and;
- c. In accordance with the Law on Mine Action, mine victims assistance was conducted with the coordinating role of the Government Office for Mine Action and in co-operation with CROMAC, relevant ministries and NGOs. Other forms of aid were mainly implemented by non-governmental sector, and funding was secured through donations from international and domestic entities, the reported elaborated.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

131. The Committee observed that with the exception of efforts ensuring access to health care services by mine victims, Croatia had not reported on specific efforts to increase availability of and accessibility to other appropriate comprehensive services such as economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, and would encourage Croatia to provide with information, disaggregated by sex- and age, concerning efforts to increase availability of and access to services..

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

132. The Committee observed that Croatia had not reported on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims, and would welcome information on this matter.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

133. The Committee observed that Croatia had not reported on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation, and welcomes information in this regard.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

134. The Committee observed that Croatia had not reported on efforts to raise awareness on the needs and rights of mine victims in accordance with Action 17 and as required under Action 15 on efforts to remove physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

135. The Committee observed that while Croatia reported on efforts, such as collection of data and plans to create a victims database, it had not reported on identified challenges that remain and priorities for assistance, in advance of the next Review Conference. The Committee observed that would encourage Croatia to report on its plans for identification of remaining challenges, priorities and plans in ahead of the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Iraq**

136. The Committee welcomes the submission by Iraq of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

137. The Committee observed that Iraq reported 17 casualties in 2017, including 14 men and 3 children including 12 injured and 5 killed in Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Basra and Maysan provinces of Iraq, demonstrating a reduction in the number of registered victims versus 27 casualties reported in 2016.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

138. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on needs assessment and the availability and gaps in services, and encourages Iraq to report on these matters, including on existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer mine victims to existing services.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

139. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported having a time-bound and measurable plan of action to achieve victim assistance commitments of the Maputo Action Plan, and encourages Iraq to report on this matter.

#### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

140. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported embedding victim assistance into broader contexts, and allocating resources for implementation, and would welcome information on these matters.

#### **Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

141. The Committee observed that Iraq was acting upon aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of services, by providing direct health care, rehabilitation and socio-economic support to over 500 mine victims and persons with disabilities in 2017, as follows:

- a. 43 mine victims including 42 women and 1 man were provided with jobs by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs;
- b. 352 mine victims were provided with artificial limbs (252), crutches (43), toilet chair (3), white canes (4), electric wheelchair and other support (1) by the Ministry of Health;

- c. 10 physical rehabilitation centres around the country benefited from the raw materials, equipment and training courses provided by the ICRC, and;
- d. 106 persons with disabilities were provided with economic and rehabilitation aid by the ICRC.

142. The Committee welcomes additional information on these matters, including on efforts to increase accessibility to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by gender and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

143. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance coordination concerning the implementation of victim assistance programmes, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

144. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported activities in support of inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations, and welcomes information on this matter.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

145. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, or raising awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

146. The Committee encourages Iraq to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Jordan**

147. The Committee welcomes the submission by Jordan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

148. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on the number of mine casualties on areas under its territory or control for the year 2017.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

149. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on needs assessment and the availability and gaps in services, and encourages Jordan to report on these matters, including on existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible.

### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

150. The Committee observed that Jordan reported on the existence of a five-year National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, which was developed and is being implemented by the Supreme Council for Human Rights, and that victim assistance is an integral part of this National Strategy. The Committee welcomes additional information concerning the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in line with requirements outlined under Action 13 and welcomes receiving an electronic copy of the strategy.

### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

151. The Committee observed that Jordan reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks relating to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, including through:

- e. Making victim assistance an integral part of the country's five-year National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, and;
- f. Including victim assistance in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as an effort to guarantee the rights of survivors to health care services, rehabilitation, work, and education.

152. The Committee welcomes additional information on the allocation of budgets for the implementation of the National Strategy, as well as an electronic version of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

153. The Committee observed that Jordan was acting upon aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, through the provision of health care treatment and rehabilitation to survivors, and by providing other assistance and support through the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation.

154. The Committee welcomes additional information on the implementation of Action 15, including on efforts to increase the availability of and accessibility to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by gender and age.

### **Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

155. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on these matters.

### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

156. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in victim assistance programmes, and welcomes information on this matter.

### **Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

157. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, and on efforts to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, and it would welcome information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

158. The Committee encourages Jordan to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Senegal**

159. The Committee welcomes the submission by Senegal of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

160. The Committee observed that Senegal reported one accident in 2017, which had caused three casualties, and increased the total number of mine victims to 829, of which 593 have been injured and 236 have been killed. No casualty was reported in 2016, and one casualty was reported in 2015. The Committee welcomes this information disaggregated by sex and age.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

161. The Committee observed that Senegal was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 12, by reporting as follows:

- a. CNAMS continued collecting data on mine victims, in collaboration with its partners including, local associations, NGOs and armed forces, and;
- b. Information collected includes identification of victims and their needs, such as their rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration needs. These efforts are expected to facilitate the free access of victims to physical rehabilitation, mental health and socio-economic integration;

162. The Committee welcomes additional information on efforts to assess the needs of all victims and the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialized services, disaggregated by sex- and age.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

163. The Committee observed that Senegal reported on the existence of a National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance (PANAV), and that it has been used as a reference document between CNAMS and health service providers to facilitate medical supports to mine victims and would welcome an electronic copy of the Action Plan.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

164. The Committee observed that Senegal reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, as follows:

- a. Health assistance systems for people with disabilities is set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Action including a national social welfare service established and social workers appointed to hospitals and an equal opportunities card provided to people with disabilities, including mine victims, ensuring their right to free access to various services including health care. The card has been made available and distributed in the mine-affected regions. Senegal further reported that its armed forces play an important role in providing emergency relief to mine victims.

165. The Committee welcomes additional information including on the allocated budget for the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks in Senegal.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

166. The Committee observed that Senegal is acting upon its commitments contained under Action 15 in relation to the availability of and accessibility to services, by indicating that support for mobility is fundamental for the socio-economic integration of victims of mines and by reporting the followings:

- a. Maintenance of capacity within the regional hospitals in mine-affected regions of Ziguinchor, Kolda and Sedhiou, to ensure availability of free emergency relief support, subsequent medical care and assistive products for mine victims;
- b. Maintenance of three departmental health centres in Oussouye, Bignona and Goudomp, to continue responding to the needs of mine victims in affected areas by providing free care and prescribed drugs to mine victims. In 2017, 34 mine survivors with prescriptions benefited from free health and drug assistance. These forms of assistance are regulated by bilateral agreements signed between the CNAMS and health centres, which have been approved under the National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance or PANAV;
- c. A National Community Based Rehabilitation Program (PNRBC) is in the process of being validated;
- d. In last two years, 85 mine victims in Senegal were provided with prostheses by a Rehabilitation Center of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, in partnership with the ICRC. Almost the entire target was able to benefit from new equipment. This project will continue in 2018, and it continues to serve as an example of South-South cooperation between two States Parties to the Convention, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, and;
- e. A psychiatric centre in Ziguinchor continued providing free assistance to mine victims with psychological disorders. In addition, mine victim-students benefit from psychological support through the Academic Center for Educational and Vocational Guidance (CAOSP).

167. The Committee welcomes these reports disaggregated by sex- and age in accordance with Actions 12 and 15.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

168. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

169. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations as required under Actions 13 and 16, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

170. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on specific efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, efforts to expand quality services in rural and remote areas, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

171. The Committee observed that Senegal reported measurable improvements, particularly as related to health care and rehabilitation of mine victims, and enhancement of victim assistance to mainstream mechanisms, such as social welfare and health, and it would welcome information on the remaining challenges and priorities to achieve Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in lead up to the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.

172. The Committee observed that Senegal reported that in order to ensure a more sustainable programme for mine victims, its victim assistance programme is in need of cooperation and assistance.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Serbia**

173. The Committee welcomes the submission by Serbia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

174. The Committee observed that Serbia had not reported on the status of new mine casualties and welcomes an update on casualties in 2017, and the total number of mine victims, disaggregated by sex and age.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

175. The Committee observed that Serbia reported that a Working Group on Victims Assistance was in place with the necessary authorization and funding to undertake all necessary actions for the benefit of victims, including mapping of existing services. The Committee welcomes additional information, disaggregated by sex- and age, on efforts to assess the needs of mine victims.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

176. The Committee observed that Serbia reported that the 2007-2015 strategy on disabilities was in force and that a new strategy was in the process of adoption. Serbia reported that the status and the rights of disabled veterans and civilian war victims will be equal to those of persons with disabilities in the new strategy. In addition, the report includes a set of activities pursued by the Working Group on Victim Assistance in promoting assistance to mine victims, as follows:

- a. Proposing measures to enhance the place of the victims of anti-personal mines;

- b. Proposing measures to enhance the legislative framework for the protection of the anti-personnel mine victims;
- c. Monitoring alignment with the applicable legislation regulating the protection of mines victims with international and national laws;
- d. Proposing special programmes and measures to empower mines victims;
- e. Cooperation with the associations of mine victims and civil society; organizations involved in enhancement of victim assistance;
- f. Cooperation with relevant institutions from abroad, international organizations and national working groups of the equivalent or similar profile with a view to exchanging experience and good practices;
- g. Monitoring progress regarding the provision of victim assistance within wider national plans and legal framework, and;
- h. Mapping all the existing services.

177. The Committee encourages Serbia to develop the above objectives into a time-bound and measurable plan of action on victim assistance.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

178. The Committee observed that Serbia was acting upon its commitments to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks, by reporting the followings:

- a. Development of an inclusive membership to the Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA), with representations from the Ministries of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health, Education, Science and Technological Development and Mine Action Centre of Serbia. In addition to these entities, the WGVA includes representatives from employment, gender equality, disabilities, cooperation and inclusive education domains of member ministries in the Working Group. NGOs are also expected to participate in the activities of the Group;
- b. The Department for Antidiscrimination Policy and Promotion of Gender Equality was established within the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs in 2017, to monitor enforcement of the anti-discriminatory policy and advance gender equality in cooperation with civil society, and;
- c. The WGVA works with relevant ministries and institutions to promote victim assistance, including by monitoring progress in the implementation of victim assistance within wider national plans and legal framework.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

179. The Committee observed that Serbia is implementing aspects of Action 15, by reporting as follows:

- a. Efforts by the WGVA and the Antidiscrimination Department to increase availability and access to services, especially through coordination efforts and policy work, and;
- b. All municipalities in Serbia have services for the protection of veterans and the disabled that can be contacted by disabled civilian veterans for specific types of assistance.

180. The Committee welcomes information on the results of those efforts among mine victims, and their access to services, regardless of their gender and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

181. The Committee observed that Serbia was acting upon aspects of requirements under Action 15, by reporting on significant plans and activities of the Working Group on Victim Assistance concerning coordination of policies and programmes on victim assistance, including agreeing on the need for stronger coordination between victims and government. The report also indicated that capacity building was one of the activities undertaken by NGOs with financial aids provided by the Serbian government.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

182. The Committee observed that Serbia reported on the participation of NGOs in activities of the Working Group on Victim Assistance, and welcomes further information on inclusion and active participation of mine survivors.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

183. The Committee observed that Serbia reported on efforts to remove barriers, such as through enhanced measures for gender equality and anti-discrimination, social protection services in remote and rural areas to expand social welfare quality assistance, and welcomes additional information on targeted efforts raising awareness on the rights and needs of mine victims.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

184. The Committee observed that Serbia reported plans and objectives for an improved victim assistance programme, and would encourage Serbia to identify remaining challenges, priorities and increase efforts in order to achieve the objectives of the Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, by the upcoming Review Conference.

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by South Sudan**

185. The Committee welcomes the submission by South Sudan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

186. The Committee observed that South Sudan reported 25 accidents which have injured 50 and killed eight people in 2017, 13 more casualties than in 2016. These casualties occurred in the states of Western Bahr El Ghazal (4), Upper Nile (5), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (6), Eastern Equatoria (5), Unity (8), Jonglei (13) and Central Equatoria (17). The Committee would welcome information disaggregated by sex and age.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

187. The Committee observed that South Sudan reported on the financial challenges that the National Mine Action Authority, Ministries of Gender and Health, and civil society organizations face in relation to victim assistance implementation, affecting provisions of medical care, referrals, and socio-economic inclusion supports, and that poverty has forced landmine survivors and persons with disabilities to beg on the streets, and even result to occurrences of “death” among the victims.

188. The Committee welcomes information on existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services, where possible.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

189. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts to establish time-bound and measurable objectives in order to address the challenges mentioned under Action 12, and it encourages South Sudan to provide information in this regard.

190. The Committee observed that in 2017 South Sudan had reported that the passing of the draft national disability policy to protect all persons with disability was delayed by the national parliament of South Sudan until 2016 and it had hindered implementation of the Maputo Action Plan, and welcomes an update in this regard.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

191. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

192. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts to increase the availability of and accessibility to services, and it would welcome information on these matters.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

193. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

194. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in victim assistance programmes, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

195. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including on expansion of quality services in rural and remote areas, and on efforts to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

196. The Committee observed that South Sudan is acting upon its commitments under Action 18, by reporting on major challenges and priorities in the field of victim assistance and by calling for cooperation and assistance, as follows:

- a. Activities of the National Mine Action Authority, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of health, civil society organizations on victim assistance are hindered by financial challenges;
- b. Despite the fact that ICRC is supporting rehabilitation in South Sudan, there is no proper medical care especially for those that need to be treated outside of South Sudan;
- c. Efforts to advance social and economic inclusion and empowerment of mine victims remain inadequate;
- d. The coordination forum has become very small as most of the organizations are not operational anymore;
- e. Landmine victims and persons with disabilities experience “death” as a result of poverty;
- f. Landmine victims and persons with disabilities beg on the streets for survival;
- b. National organizations lack funding to implement their activities, and to participate in relevant planning and decision makings, and;
- a. South Sudan appeals for assistance and funding for vocational training of mine victims and persons with disabilities in order to enable them to work, to compete in business sector, and to be able to generate income for their families.

197. The Committee welcomes additional information on these matters, including efforts to formulate challenges and priorities into time-bound and measurable plan of action, in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Sudan**

198. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine Casualties**

199. The Committee observed that Sudan reported a total of 2,101 mines and explosive remnants of war victims, with 1,498 injured and 603 killed which demonstrates 42 more victims registered in 2017. The report, however, also stated that since the beginning of the programme, there are a total of 2,089 mines and explosive remnants of war victims in Sudan, the Committee welcomes a clarification on this discrepancy, and would also welcome information, disaggregated by sex and age, on the registered victims.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

200. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on Action 12, and encourages Sudan to report on assessment of the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

201. The Committee observed that Sudan reported on the existence of a Victim Assistance Strategy valid until 2019, and welcomes an electronic copy of the Strategy.

#### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

202. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment,

development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation. The Committee encourages Sudan to report on these matters.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

203. The Committee observed that Sudan was implementing aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and socio-economic opportunities, as follows:

- a. AAR Japan in collaboration with Friends Of Peace & Development Organization (FPDO), have assisted 60 mine victims by providing assistive devices, supports for socio-economic inclusion, income generation and psychosocial aid in Kassala, an eastern state in Sudan;
- b. FPDO implemented victim assistance project to advance socio-economic, integration of 20 beneficiaries including by providing them with assistive devices and psychosocial support, with funding provided by Italy;
- c. JASMAR, an NGO, with support provided by USAID is currently implementing projects in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, to assist 88 beneficiaries in terms of psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, socio-economic and income generation and to support to 50 victims and their families through health insurance service, and;
- d. NMUMAD has assisted 20 beneficiaries in North Darfur state to advance their socio-economic integration, funded by UNAMID-ODO.

204. The Committee welcomes this information, disaggregated by sex and age, and additional information on efforts increasing access to mainstream and specialised services in Sudan.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

205. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on efforts to build local capacities or enhance coordination, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

206. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on efforts under Action 16 concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation and welcomes information on this matter.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

207. The Committee observed that Sudan reported activities, including two workshops that were held to raise awareness on, and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and welcomes additional information on efforts that help to remove barriers, including through expanding quality services in remote areas where mine victims live.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

208. The Committee observed that Sudan reported on assistance provided to mine victims and persons with disabilities and welcomes additional information on measurable improvements in the lives of mine victims and also information on remaining challenges and priorities in victim

assistance, to achieve the victim assistance commitments of the Maputo Action Plan, in advance of the next Review Conference.

## **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Thailand**

209. The Committee welcomes the submission by Thailand of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

### **Mine casualties**

210. The Committee observed that Thailand provided an update on the number of new mine victims with five casualties registered in 2017, all men injured, and that that the decrease in casualties (versus 9 in 2016) is the result of Mine Risk Education programs raising awareness on landmines and promoting behavioural change through public information campaigns, education and training, and liaising with communities.

### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

211. The Committee observed that Thailand reported assessing needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors in areas of medical care, social and economic inclusion, rehabilitation, psychological support, capacity building, awareness raising and laws and policies, and welcomes information on any assessments that were conducted in 2017, to identify gaps in mainstreaming and/or specialised services.

### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

212. The Committee observed that Thailand is acting upon its commitments under Action 13, by outlining comprehensive objectives medical care, social and economic inclusion, rehabilitation, psychological support, capacity building, awareness raising and laws and policies and through developing or updating of the following plan of actions:

- a. National Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2017 – 2021);
- b. Strategic Plan on Empowerment of Women with Disabilities (2017 – 2021);
- c. Provincial Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and;
- d. Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities.

213. The Committee welcomes additional information on timeframes of the reported objectives and plans along with electronic copies of the action plans.

### **Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

214. The Committee observed that Thailand was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 14, in areas of social and economic inclusion by amending the Regulation on Revenue Codes, approval of persons with disabilities who are registered for disability identification cards as being eligible to receive disability allowance upon request and aiming for an integrated technology to enhance the level of services to persons with disabilities.

### **Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

215. The Committee observed that Thailand was implementing commitments outlined under Action 15, by increasing or maintaining targeted resources, through the following:

- a. Increasing monthly disability allowance from the rate of 14 USD to 27 USD;
- b. Allocating budgets for personal assistants (1.44 million USD since 2011 to present), for housing modification (3.89 million USD since 2011 to present), for sign language interpreters (approximately 128,800 USD per year), and for assistive devices, tri-cycle (approximately 364,000 USD per year);
- c. Putting measures in place to respond to emergency situation and casualties during mine clearance operations;
- d. Promoting Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services for all persons with disabilities, including in 15 hospitals and four regions of the country;
- e. Providing interest-free loans to individuals at an amount of up to 1,922 USD, and to groups at an amount of up to 3,840 USD for 5 years;
- f. Providing aid and rehabilitation allowances at an amount of up to 96 USD, three times on an annual basis;
- g. Providing psychological support to at least 500 persons with disabilities to increase their participation in community activities and also to change attitudes of people in the community, with 152 Community Learning Centres operating in 76 provinces of the country;
- h. Advancing livelihoods of persons with disability through (1) vocational training program, welfare program, running disability services centres, having a comprehensive program on financial support in place to advance the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities, holding seminars and training on financial management and documentation;
- i. Having 7,980 persons with disabilities employed in the government sector and 47,150 persons with disabilities employed in the private sector, and;
- j. Allocating approximately 159 million USD for loans for self-employment of persons with disabilities and their caregivers, of which approximately 6.2 million USD allocated for the year 2018.

216. The Committee welcomes this update disaggregated by sex- and age and preferably with an indication of the number of people who benefited in the reporting period.

#### **Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

217. The Committee observed that Thailand reported on its strong commitment towards enhancing capacities and ensuring inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations, by reporting:

- k. Creation of a capacity building centre for persons with disabilities and service providers, allocating financial support equals to 17,333,841 USD in support of the work of disability stakeholders and making efforts for evaluation and follow-up of programs to ensure the quality of services provided to the persons with disabilities, and;
- l. Continued supports provided by the general and provincial centres for persons with disabilities with the mandate to advance disability-related policies and services including coordination and collaborations among stakeholders, and between government and persons with disabilities.

#### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

218. The Committee observed that Thailand reported on inclusion and participation of mine victims, including at decision-making level to design policies, plans and projects on disability issues, in collaboration with non-governmental agencies including disabled people's organizations, supported by a number of policies and actions in place.

### **Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

219. The Committee observed that Thailand reported awareness-raising activities among government agencies and private companies to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and expanding services to rural areas through community-based rehabilitation activities, and welcomes information on any efforts that led to the removal of barriers, such as physical barriers.

### **Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

220. The Committee observed that Thailand was acting upon aspects of requirements of Action 18, by reporting measurable improvements in its implementation mechanisms addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors, and would welcome additional information on remaining challenges and priorities in relation to achieving the Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, in the lead up to next year's Review Conference.

### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Zimbabwe**

221. The Committee welcomes the submission by Zimbabwe of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine Casualties**

222. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had not reported on the status of new casualties by anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control, and welcomes information in this regard, disaggregated by sex and age.

#### **Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

223. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported on aspects of Action 12 commitments, by elaborating the existence of a considerable number of mine victims scattered around the country in mine-affected areas, and that the country is in the process of collecting data and statistics specifically on those affected by landmines through the assistance of Demining Partners. In addition, Zimbabwe indicated the followings:

- a. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in which victim assistance lies, collects data on all people living with disabilities, without categorising the cause of their disabilities. This also is the case on the provision of basic services including medical care, physical rehabilitation, economic and social inclusion in which all those with disabilities are treated alike;
- b. While the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for the social welfare of all people living with disabilities, including mine victims, limitations in funding hinder the full implementation of rehabilitation services;
- c. ZIMAC has been making efforts to assist mine victims including by identifying mine victims in remote areas and having them included in the Social Welfare database, and;
- d. Plans are in place to conduct a countrywide mine victim survey as soon as funding was secured.

224. The Committee welcomes additional information on efforts undertaken by ZIMAC in supporting mine victims in remote areas, as well as the types of assistance victims, receive through the Social Welfare database, in a sex- and age-disaggregated manner.

#### **Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

225. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had not reported in this regard, and welcomes information concerning plans for a time-bound and measurable plan for the implementation of victim assistance to achieve commitments of the Maputo Action Plan.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

226. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had not reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, and welcomes information on these matters, including on allocation of budgets for implementation.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

227. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported on challenges the country face in relation to access to specialized rehabilitation, medical care and assistive products, as follows:

- a. Individuals who suffer traumatic lower limb injuries from causes such as anti-personnel mines/ERW and motor vehicle accidents receive medical treatment from nearest local district medical hospitals or clinics. When individuals' conditions are beyond the capability of local health care services, a long and costly travel to provincial or national health care centres is normally required;
- b. There are no rehabilitation centres, specialist doctors, prosthetics and physical therapists in some areas of Zimbabwe;
- c. Many individuals, who come from rural areas, including landmine victims, either cannot afford to travel to access special services or cannot spend long periods away from their families or means of income, and opt to stay home using traditional means of treatment, and;
- d. HALO Trust continues to assist mine victims by providing prosthetic limbs. In 2017, they assisted 17 identified mine victims.

228. The Committee welcomes information on efforts to ensure new victims, including those in critical conditions in mine-affected areas, have access to appropriate first aid and medical care, and also the Committee would welcome information on efforts to increase the availability of and access to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by sex- and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

229. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported that interaction between the ZIMAC and other relevant State entities, like the Ministry of Health, has been limited, and that National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMAAZ) was making efforts to improve coordination. ZIMAC continues to strengthen coordination including through a Mine Action Stakeholders Coordinating Meetings held every three months. However, Zimbabwe reported that due to the limitation of funding, coordination has been limited with other state entities responsible for disabilities including the Ministry of Health and Child Care and Public service and Social Welfare. Plans are in place for conducting a landmine victim survey in coordination with demining organisations and other ministries.

230. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and would welcome information on this matter, as well as on efforts undertaken by NAMAAZ to enhance coordination with State entities.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

231. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had not reported on efforts to advance the inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in relevant programmes and policies, and welcomes information on these matters.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

232. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, and on efforts to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, and would welcome information on these matters in age- and gender-sensitive manner.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

233. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe, with exception information on challenges in accessing services in rural areas, funding and coordination, had not reported on measurable improvements or on efforts to identify the remaining challenges and priorities in assisting mine victims in the lead up to the upcoming Review Conference, and it encourages Zimbabwe to report on these matters.

**OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE 29 STATES PARTIES THAT HAVE INDICATED HAVING A RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF LANDMINE SURVIVORS**

State Party	Article 7 report submitted in 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Information on victim assistance contained in the Article 7 report	Information on Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments provided in the Article 7 report	Information on Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments provided through means other than the Article 7 report
Afghanistan	✓	✓	✓	
Albania	✓	✓	✓	
Angola				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓		
Burundi				✓
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	
Chad	✓	✓		
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	
DR Congo	✓	✓	✓	
El Salvador				
Eritrea				
Ethiopia				
Guinea-Bissau				
Iraq	✓	✓	✓	
Jordan	✓	✓	✓	
Mozambique	✓			
Nicaragua				
Peru	✓			
Senegal	✓	✓	✓	
Serbia	✓	✓	✓	
Somalia				
South Sudan	✓	✓	✓	
Sudan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tajikistan				
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	
Uganda				
Yemen				
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✓	

<sup>1</sup> Status by 15 May, 2018

**STATUS OF 2017 REPORTING BY THE 29 STATES PARTIES THAT HAVE INDICATED HAVING A RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF LANDMINE SURVIVORS, IN LINE WITH THE MAPUTO ACTION PLAN**

State Party	Action 12	Action 13	Action 14	Action 15	Action 16	Action 17	Action 18
Afghanistan	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Albania	✓	✓		✓			
Angola							
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓			✓			
Burundi	✓						✓
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Chad	✓			✓	✓		
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Croatia	✓		✓	✓			
Democratic Republic of the Congo	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
El Salvador							
Eritrea							
Ethiopia							
Guinea Bissau							
Iraq				✓			
Jordan		✓	✓	✓			
Mozambique							
Nicaragua							
Peru							
Senegal	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Somalia							
South Sudan	✓						✓
Sudan		✓		✓		✓	✓
Tajikistan							
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uganda							
Yemen							
Zimbabwe	✓			✓			