



European Union

**EU Statement on Victim Assistance
Intersessional meetings
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 22-24 May 2019**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Candidate Countries Turkey, North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank the Committee on Victim Assistance for their presentation and preliminary observations regarding the implementation by States Parties of their victim assistance commitments. In particular, we would like to thank the Committee for actively seeking to reinforce cooperation and increase synergies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other relevant human rights and disability actors and instruments.

The EU is actively supporting the efforts of States Parties to implement their victim assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan that call for integrated victim assistance, by means of a dedicated project, funded under the 2017 EU Council Decision and implemented by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention. The project activities include support for States Parties to set up a national stakeholder dialogue on victim assistance with national and international stakeholders. Last year, such national stakeholder dialogues took place in Iraq and Uganda, and later this year a dialogue will take place in South Sudan. The Convention's Committee on Victim Assistance is involved in the selection of the beneficiary countries.

In the context of the same project, the EU is proud to cooperate with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the ISU in convening a Global Conference on Victim Assistance and Disabilities entitled “Fostering Partnerships” that will take place from 10 to 12 September 2019 in Amman, Jordan. The Conference will build upon previous efforts to enhance cooperation among victim assistance, disability, human rights and development actors and to increase efforts in meeting the

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

needs and rights of mine survivors and persons with disabilities, including through integrating victim assistance into broader disability and development policies at the national level.

The Conference will provide national disability rights and victim assistance experts, decision makers and persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, with opportunities to further explore challenges and good practices to align victim assistance with the CRPD and the Sustainable Development Goals.

All States are invited to attend the Conference as they all play a role in achieving the full and effective participation of women, girls, boys and men living with a disability on an equal basis with others in their societies. In addition, States Parties that have indicated responsibility for a significant number of landmine survivors, or those currently implementing victim assistance aspects, are particularly encouraged to engage through national victim assistance and disability rights experts.

Thank you, Mr. Chair