

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Mozambique

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Mozambique of updated information on its victim assistance activities in 2018. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported there are approximately 10,000 mine and ERW survivors in the country and that the harmful effects of mines/ERW continue to affect the lives of victims, while the country was declared mine-free in 2015.
3. The Committee would welcome further information - disaggregated by age and gender - on mine/ERW survivors in Mozambique.

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

4. The Committee observed that Mozambique stated financial constraints as a key challenge facing its victim assistance programme, but the report did not include information on any assessments that may have been carried to identify the needs, the availability of or gaps in services as per action 12, and the Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that in the information submitted by Mozambique includes a reference to an action plan which addresses the needs of mine victims but the report did not provide information on any progress made to implement time-bound and measurable objectives and encourages Mozambique to share information in this regard along with an electronic copy of the action plan.

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

6. The Committee observed that Mozambique reported on the need and importance of building bridges between victim assistance and disability and development policies and programmes and the need for closer cooperation between health and social programmes, the report, however, did not provide an update on progress in the integration of victim assistance into broader policies and programmes, and the Committee 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)

7. The Committee observed that Mozambique did not report on achievements or progress in relation to action 15 and encourages Mozambique to provide information in this regard.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. The Committee observed that Mozambique did not report on achievements or progress in relation to the implementation of action 15 and encourages Mozambique to provide information in this regard.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

9. The Committee observed that Mozambique did not report on the status of inclusion and participation of mine victims in relevant policies and programmes and encourages Mozambique to provide information in this regard.

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

10. The Committee observed that Mozambique did not report on action 15 and 17 and would welcome information in this regard, including updates on any achievements or continuing efforts to remove physical, attitudinal or communication barriers as concerned mine survivors.

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

11. The Committee observed that Mozambique indicated that efforts to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and mine victims but the report did not provide information on measurable improvements in victim assistance. The report also includes the following challenges, that will need to be addressed:
 - a. Creating a national database with disaggregated mine victim data to provide an overview of how many victims exist to design effective intervention strategies;
 - b. Providing houses for mine victims because most of them live in precarious houses made of local material;
 - c. Majority of mine victims are engaged in the informal sector and live below the poverty line, due to lack of employment opportunities;
 - d. Some of the Orthopaedic Centres face enormous difficulties in acquiring raw material for the production of prostheses and orthotics;
 - e. Funds allocated to local governments for the employment promotion of local communities, remain insufficient and does not address the needs of persons with disabilities and mine victims in particular.
12. The Committee encourages Mozambique to provide information on measurable improvements and priorities to address the challenges faced by the victim assistance programme of the country and to increase efforts on assistance to victims in advance of the Oslo Review Conference as required by the action 18 of the Maputo Action Plan.