

**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 Somalia

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Somalia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2018 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Somalia reported that around 1,300 mine/ERW victims have been registered and would welcome further information – disaggregated by gender and age – on registered victims and on casualties in 2018.

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

3. The Committee observed that Somalia is in the process of verifying the estimated number of ERW/Landmine victims including the 1,300 victims registered by the UNMAS as part of a National Mine Victim Survey, if funding was made available. The report also states that one of the objectives of SEMA is to undertake a victim assistance situation analysis in the country.
4. The Committee would welcome further information on plans to mobilise support for the National Mine Victim Survey and victim assistance situation analysis.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that Somalia did not report time-bound and measurable plans to achieve the objectives of victim assistance and the Committee encourages Somalia to develop a time-bound and measurable plan to address the needs of mine victims in a coordinated fashion and would welcome information if progress has been already made in this regard.

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 Somalia did not report on action 14 other than that advocacy is being undertaken for the adoption of legislation by the Parliament during its upcoming session and would welcome information on the implementation of action 14 and information on the legislation and its relevance to victim assistance.

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 Somalia did not report on action 15 but the indicates the following national and international institutions or organisations providing support to persons with

disabilities in the country: The Ministry of Health, the ICRC, SRCS, Hospitals, Horn Africa Disability Forum (HADDF), Institute of Education for Disabled People (IEDP), Somali Association of the Blind, National Disabled Council (NDC), and Somalia Coalition to Ban Landmines (SOCBAL), while none seem to be providing [specific] support to victims, the report states.

8. The Committee would welcome information on progress in increasing the availability of and accessibility to victim assistance services including age- and gender-disaggregated information on the number of mine victims that have received support in 2018.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. The Committee observed that Somalia did not report on action 15 and would welcome information in this regard.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

10. The Committee observed that Somalia did not report on action 16 and would welcome information on this matter.

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

11. The Committee observed that Somalia did not report on actions 15 and 17 and would welcome information on these matters.

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

12. The Committee observed that Somalia reported shortages of resources and data on victims as some of the key challenges facing the victim assistance programme in the country as reported in the previous year.
13. The Committee continues to encourage Somalia to report on measurable improvements in victim assistance and to increase efforts to address the challenges hindering achievement of victim assistance objectives and Somalia's commitments under actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan.
14. The Committee also wishes indicates that the Fourth Review Conference to take place in November 2019 as a key milestone of the Convention will provide an opportunity to enhance cooperation and assistance including for victim assistance.