

**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 Zimbabwe

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe reported registering 165 mine victims, including three accidents affecting two children and one adult in 2018, while it is believed that there is a considerable number of mine victims across the country yet to be identified and registered.

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

3. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported that the total number of mine victims remains unknown, therefore, ZIMAC has planned to conduct a National Landmine Victim Survey but due to the absence of funding the survey has not been undertaken yet. ZIMAC, however, continues to assist the identified victims in remote areas by having them included in the Social Welfare database and through other means, as possible.
4. The Committee encourages Zimbabwe to invest more efforts to mobilise the required resources for the planned National Landmine Victim Survey as well as for assessing the needs and the availability and gaps in services. The Committee encourages Zimbabwe to communicate the matter with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Convention in seeking further opportunities for cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe did not report on efforts to develop or maintain time-bound and measurable objectives on victim assistance and encourages Zimbabwe to develop and implement time-bound and measurable plan, and would welcome information if such a plan is already in place.

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 Zimbabwe reported that the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW) in which victim assistance responsibilities in Zimbabwe lies, assists those living with disabilities regardless of the cause of disabilities, including to address their basic needs such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, economic and social inclusion.
7. The Committee acknowledges the inclusion of victim assistance in the mandate of the MPSLSW and would welcome additional information on specific efforts made by the MPSLSW to integrate victim assistance obligation into its policies, plans and programmes.

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)

8. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe is meeting parts of its commitments under action 15 by reporting on the continued provision of medical care and physical rehabilitation to mine survivors as reported in 2017 and by reporting the following additional efforts in 2018:
 - a. There are limited rehabilitation centres, specialist doctors, prosthetics and physical therapists in some most rural areas of Zimbabwe (where minefields are) and that in 2018, HALO Trust provided prosthetic limbs to 51 victims identified by ZIMAC and the demining organisations;
 - b. While challenges exist to access medical care services, medical treatment is usually provided in time due to the availability of the network of clinics around the country.
9. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported the availability of “limited rehabilitation centers...” in mine affected areas, demonstrating progress in comparison to the previous year when Zimbabwe reported lack of rehabilitation supports in mine affected areas and would welcome further information on efforts that led to the availability of the services in mine affected areas in 2018.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

10. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported that while coordination amongst national ministries and other relevant stakeholders remains a challenge, the MPSSLW has recently assigned an officer to work with ZIMAC on victim assistance.
11. The Committee encourages Zimbabwe to increase efforts ensuring enhanced and regular coordination with and among the relevant institutions and increased local capacities to meet the needs and rights of mine victims.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

12. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe did not report progress in inclusion and participation of mine victims in the relevant policies and programmes and given the significance of action 16 on the principle of participation and inclusion, the Committee encourages Zimbabwe to share information in this regard.

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

13. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported efforts made to meet the needs of mine victims in remote areas when they are identified and registered, however, Zimbabwe has not reported on any other exertions to remove barriers such as physical, attitudinal or communication barriers that may be facing mine survivors to access services, or progress in raising awareness on the needs and rights of mine victims and the Committee would welcome information in this regard.

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

14. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported some improvements in areas of rehabilitation, medical care and coordination, and would welcome further information

disaggregated by sex- and age on measurable enhancements on social and economic inclusion and psychological and peer supports to mine victims in 2018.

15. The Committee also observed that Zimbabwe reported that its victim assistance programme has been affected by several challenges including in areas of data collection, coordination and shortages of resources. The Committee encourages Zimbabwe to increase efforts to address the challenges in victim assistance in advance of the Fourth Review Conference.