

**Questions and Comments from the ICBL on Victim Assistance
Presentations**
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance
22-23 June 2011, Geneva Switzerland



22 June 2011:

Afghanistan: Congratulations on the new ratification of CRPD. However, new national disability legislation is not in line with the obligations of the CRPD. So, we would like to ask if there are plans in place to review and potentially reform that law and if we could hear an update on that process by the 11MSP?

Serbia: ICBL is concerned that the described regulations to provide highly sophisticated mobility devices for veterans with disabilities could discriminate among survivors since civilian survivors are not also entitled to such devices. In addition, it would be useful to hear about services that might be provided locally, either through CBR or through referrals to regional centers, in addition to what is available in the capital. Finally, it would be useful to hear about Serbia's plans to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and related national legislation.

Colombia: Congratulations on the very comprehensive law 1448 for victims. What are Colombia's plans to address the growing problem of casualties among civilian coca eradicators?

Cambodia: Thanks for news of progress made. In light of the upcoming 11MSP in Cambodia, we hope Cambodia will use the opportunity to raise awareness among survivors about their rights under existing disability laws. We would also like to hear more details about the preparations to increase capacity and ensure the quality of services after the planned withdrawal of international organizations, especially those working in physical rehabilitation.

Burundi: We commend the work you have done to create a detailed plan with a corresponding budget. We call on States Parties in a position to do so to provide assistance, both financial and technical, to contribute to addressing the needs and gaps demonstrated through this plan, especially the key first step of data collection and survivor needs assessment.

Croatia: Thanks for the frank presentation of victim assistance progress and the details of real challenges faced. We hope that with the strong, new coordination, you will be able to overcome the challenge with sharing data and we look forward to hearing more about that at the 11MSP.

Guinea-Bissau: Congratulations on the opening of the new center for rehabilitation. We are concerned, however, that similar to the situation in Serbia, in Guinea-Bissau there is discrimination among survivors since former military survivors have access to economic support through special insurance that is not available to civilians

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Senegal: In your Article 7 report last year you reported 160 casualties and this year, in the statement, 780. This is a significance difference. Is it related to your data collection efforts? Is there data collection and needs assessments underway?

The budget you provide, accompanying the National Action Plan, is very helpful. What is the national contribution to this budget?

Ethiopia: We are pleased to hear so much progress in putting in place measures to enforce the rights of PWDs in the short period since the 10MSP. We would be interested to hear how Ethiopia is tracking how many survivors are benefiting from those measures?

Iraq: We welcome the statement of Iraq, it has been very helpful to hear your initial assessments of the challenges that the country faces in providing assistance to survivors. Have you begun to develop a budget to accompany this initial planning?

Tajikistan: Just at the last intersessional meeting, we asked about the possibility for establishing a survivors' organization, and already you have reported that two have been established. Congratulations on this quick progress.