

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION
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**DEVELOPING SMART OBJECTIVES AND A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION –
THE ROLE OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION**

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The *Nairobi Action Plan* commits States Parties that have reported significant numbers of landmine survivors to do their utmost to establish and enhance: national data collection capacities for information related to mine victims and victim assistance; services for the emergency and continuing medical care of mine victims; increased physical rehabilitation capacities; increased psychological support and social reintegration services; support for economic reintegration; and development and implementation of national legal and policy frameworks to effectively address the needs and rights of mine victims and other persons with disabilities. It also calls upon other States Parties “to promptly assist those States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support.....ensuring continuity and sustainability of resource commitments.”

At the First Review Conference, States Parties adopted a clear understanding of principles to guide their efforts. Three statements that are particularly relevant:

- “...the call to assist landmine victims should not lead to victim assistance efforts being undertaken in such a manner as to exclude any person injured or disabled in another manner;”
- “assistance to landmine victims should be viewed as a part of a country’s overall public health and social services systems and human rights frameworks;” and,
- “...providing adequate assistance to landmine survivors must be seen in a broader context of development and underdevelopment....”

As noted yesterday, in 2005, the previous Co-Chairs, Nicaragua and Norway, sent a detailed questionnaire to the 24 States Parties that have reported significant numbers of mine survivors with the aim that these States Parties would produce concrete and measurable objectives as a first step in developing a plan of action in relation to mine victim assistance. The results of the efforts of 22 of the 24 relevant States Parties appear in Annex 5 of the *Zagreb Progress Report*. However, it is acknowledged that the results are mixed and more attention is needed in the development of SMART – the precursor to developing a national plan of action.

There are 7 essential steps in the process of developing a national response to landmine victim assistance:

The first step is to designate an intersectoral group to oversee the process, including relevant government ministries, international agencies, non governmental organizations, associations of persons with disabilities, etc.

Secondly, assign responsibility for the process and the preparation of the national plan of action.

Undertake a situation analysis looking specifically at the current situation that may be relevant to landmine survivors, and the factors that favour or impede achieving the best possible quality of life for mine survivors and other people with disabilities, including capacities and competencies, and training needs. Look at all the relevant initiatives, including

health sector strategies, rehabilitation sector strategies, poverty reduction strategies, etc. Also analyze activities that are not part of an official national program, for example, initiatives of international agencies, national and international non governmental organizations, etc.

Once completed review the situation analysis to determine what the State wants the situation to be in 2009.

Based on this analysis prepare a set of SMART objectives that will improve/change the current situation by 2009 and lead to an improved quality of life for mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. SMART objectives are:

- **Specific:** the objective should describe a quantifiable change relative to the current situation.
- **Measurable:** there should be or will be a system in place to measure progress towards the achievement of the objective.
- **Achievable:** it should be realistic that, with a reasonable amount of effort, the objective could be met by 2009.
- **Relevant:** the objective should be important to achieve an improvement in the services available and/or the quality of life of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.
- **Time based:** the timeframe for reaching the desired objective should be no later than 2009.

The next step is national plan formulation. Develop a plan of action detailing the strategies and activities that will be undertaken to change the current situation to reach the stated objectives.

And finally, identify the resources that are currently available to implement the national plan and assess the additional resources that are needed to fully implement the plan.

I have recently visited four of the 24 relevant States Parties to provide support in advancing their inter-ministerial efforts to establish better objectives and develop good plans. I have also been in communication with other States Parties, including government representatives, mine survivors, and international and national agencies and NGOs. Too often I am told that there is no knowledge of the *Nairobi Action Plan* or the work of this Standing Committee among the key people working on disability issues at the national level.

Achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* will not happen here in Geneva. It will involve committed efforts at the national level by all the relevant ministries and key actors in the disability sector. Ideally this effort will come through inter-ministerial coordination, but in some countries, the only focus on mine victim assistance appears to be coming from the mine action centre. This will produce sustainable results that will continue after the end of mine clearance activities **only** if the mine action centre works in close collaboration with the relevant ministries and other key actors in the disability sector. However, this can also be problematic if the mine action centre assumes the role of program delivery and attracts funding that needs to go to building capacity and support of relevant ministries and service delivery experts. It can also be problematic if the mine action centre does not employ a specialist with experience in the health, rehabilitation or disability issues to coordinate activities; suitably qualified mine survivors could fill this role.

We have heard updates from 15 of the 24 States Parties. Progress is being made in establishing inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, strengthening objectives, and developing plans of action. But much more needs to be done if real progress is to be made before 2009 in fulfilling the promise of the Convention to mine survivors everywhere.

I will conclude by sharing one of the lessons that I have learnt over the past few years as I've had the privilege to talk with mine survivors in many countries. Mine survivors are not a problem to be solved. They are individuals with hopes and dreams like all of us. They are assets with the capacity to be productive contributors to the social and economic development of their communities. The challenge is to provide the environment and opportunities that will enable mine survivors and other people with disabilities to reach their full potential to contribute to their communities and realize their dreams.