CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY AFGHANISTAN

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Afghanistan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and additional information submitted in response to the Committee’s preliminary observations. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Afghanistan reported 2,288 mine casualties in 2017 including 159 women, 866 men, 1,263 children with 793 killed and the rest injured. The report indicated that between 2001 and 2013 the number of casualties fell significantly from a monthly average of 175 to 76. However, since 2013, the number of casualties has risen to a monthly average of 126 during 2017, with an average of 23 more casualties per month than in 2016, with 48 per cent of casualties caused by improvised anti-personnel mines (Pressure Plate IED) incidents, it is about 13 per cent less than in 2016, the increased use of anti-personnel mines remains a major cause of casualties in Afghanistan.

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

3. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan has initiated steps towards the implementation of Actions 12 and 13 by reporting that preparations have begun for a nationwide Victim Assistance/Disability survey, including the establishment of a technical committee to work on the survey, but due to lack of funding the survey has been postponed. The Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) has been working to mobilise funds (USD$4,000,000) for the survey, the reported indicated.

4. Afghanistan reported on efforts made by the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) to create a database on victim assistance and disabilities to facilitate submission of reports by disability and victim assistance holders to MoLSAMD. The database has been developed by DMAC as a support to the MoLSAMD, and it will be managed directly by the MoLSAMD, the report stated.

5. Afghanistan reported installation of a biometric system for registration of families of martyred and persons with disabilities to facilitate payments of their pensions and provide other assistance, with financial support by the World Bank. With the support of DMAC, the MoLSAMD will install the system in all 34 provinces of the country, the report indicated.

6. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the results of these efforts.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

7. Afghanistan reported that the MoLSAMD is working together with DMAC and other disability and victim assistance actors on the development of the Afghanistan National Disability Strategy, a final draft will be prepared at the end of quarter three of 2018 that will be followed by an official launch, after it has been approved by the government of Afghanistan. The Committee
concluded that it would welcome an electronic copy of the Strategy and welcomes additional information on the time-bound and measurable objectives within the strategy.

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

8. Afghanistan reported that the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has made efforts in developing or updating relevant policies related to physical rehabilitation, including the 2017-2020 National Strategic Plan for Disability Prevention and Physical Rehabilitation, to advance the integration of assistance into broader health services delivered by the Ministry. MoPH has also integrated victim assistance into its Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS), the report stated.

9. Afghanistan reported that it has drafted a “technical note for psychosocial counselling/peer support” and it has been under review by the quality management department of DMAC. Afghanistan also reported on efforts to integrate victim assistance into relevant ministries work plans for the coming five years, through the disability inter-ministerial board’s plan of action.

**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)**

10. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan continues to act upon its commitment under Action 15 by reporting on the provisions of physical and economic inclusion services through broader frameworks, as follows:

   a. In 2017 the disability and physical rehabilitation strategy 2016-2020 was revised and continuously updated by the Disability and Community-Based Rehabilitation Task Force at the MoPH. The plan was approved and printed in 2017;
   b. In 2017 the MoPH has coordinated Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) with the MoLSAMD through a well-established strategy for inclusion, provision of equal opportunities and empowerment of persons with disabilities with programmes in 20 out of 34 provinces;
   c. In 2017 a physical rehabilitation project was designed and funded to provide rehabilitation services to 11,585 persons with disabilities through three Physical Rehabilitation Centres in Khost, Farah and Kunar and one “Mobile and 2 Fixed” reaching persons with disabilities in nine provinces;
   d. Through the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP III) a donor-funded programme a “total of 6,799 people received physical rehabilitation and disability awareness services” including 2,575 women and girls and 4,224 men and boys, and;
   e. Through ACAP III, rehabilitation services were provided to 2,774 beneficiaries (1,977 males, 797 females) through direct purchasing of high technology devices and referral to physical rehabilitation centres; immediate assistance packages were (food and non-food items) delivered to 45,598 beneficiaries (22,962 males, 22,636 females); and Income Generation packages were (such as cows, motorbike-carts...etc.) delivered to 621 families (2,077 males, 2,662 females); and psychosocial counselling sessions conducted with 7,740 beneficiaries (4,369 males, 3,371 females).

11. The Committee acknowledges Afghanistan’s efforts to provide the information disaggregated by sex and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**
12. Afghanistan reported on its continued efforts to coordinate the victim assistance programme and that it held six coordination meetings in 2017 with the participation of all key victim assistance and disability organizations and line ministries representatives.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

13. Afghanistan has reported that due to lack of a central database, there is no information available in this regard. The committee concluded that it would encourage the government of Afghanistan to ensure inclusion and participation of mine victims in all relevant programmes and policies.

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

14. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan is acting upon its commitments under Actions 15 and 17 by reporting on awareness raising among school teachers as well as removing physical barriers at schools in 2017 to facilitate social inclusions, as follows:

   a. 1,160 teachers were trained in inclusive education in 20 provinces as an effort to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in schools;
   b. 50 schools were made physically accessible through the construction of ramps for wheelchair users;
   c. Agreements have been made with MoE on the integration of inclusive education and messages on victim assistance and disabilities in the new national curriculum of school textbooks (grades 1-6), building on the success of similar efforts for grades 7-12 a few years ago;
   d. 500 children with disabilities and their parents were provided training with inclusive education and on the enrolment of 539 children with mental disability and visual and hearing impairment to schools in Kabul;
   e. 3,808 children with disabilities have been integrated into general schools in 17 provinces with technical and financial support from national and international organizations;
   f. Also, Afghanistan reported on undertaking a number of efforts in coordination with civil society, to raise awareness through public events and media work to promote victim assistance.

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

15. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan is acting upon its commitments under Action 18 by providing a detailed analysis of the challenges its victim assistance programmes face and a general list of needs and activities based upon the identified challenges, as follows:

   a. Improve access to pre-hospital care by training of 3,200 first responders at 1,600 impacted communities;
   b. Establish 20 mobile and orthopaedic workshops in 20 provinces; mobilize sustainable funds for the existing nine centres and mobile workshops, and train female technicians and physiotherapists in all provinces;
   c. Provide direct support to children with disabilities to enable their access to schools, including through identification of children with disabilities, the creation of referral mechanisms, facilitation of their access to health, rehabilitation and social services;
   d. Raise awareness among community members and teachers on disability issues and rights in order to reduce discriminatory attitudes and practices;
e. Support mine/ERW victims/persons with disabilities to start income generating activities, entrepreneurship and job creation and employ persons with disabilities in government and NGOs;

f. Make existing public buildings physically accessible and advocate for amendment in construction legislation to ensure all buildings will be accessible. And raise awareness activities on accessibility;

g. Provide individual psychotherapy sessions, set up mobile multi-disciplinary teams, therapeutic discussion groups, peer to peer support and therapeutic cultural, sports & leisure activities in affected communities that positively impact victims’ mental health;

h. Train, support and supervise community and social workers, psycho-social counsellors, and other persons that provide mental health services;

i. Raise awareness on the victim assistance and the rights and needs of victims & persons with disabilities among key ministries and stakeholders;

j. Involve victims themselves as partners in awareness-raising activities and in the development of the National Action Plan from the beginning of the process, and;

k. Identify community workers or community health workers that can be trained to provide personalized social support at the local level.

16. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on next steps, including plans for the development of time-bound and measurable objectives, as per Action 13, for the implementation of these activities in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ALBANIA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Albania of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and the submission of additional information in response to Committee’s preliminary observations on 6 June and 20 July 2018. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Albania provided an update on the number of mine victims indicating a total of at least 1,002 of which 151 were killed including 144 boys, 41 girls, 578 men, 88 women and 851 were injured including 31 boys, 15 girls, 87 men and 18 women, an increase of four more persons injured from Albania’s previous report.

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

3. Albania is acting upon its commitments under Action 12 by reporting on the completion of a “Needs Assessment of Social-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania” in 2016 resulting in the identification of the needs of mine survivors and family members of victims in areas of medical and rehabilitation assistance, economic inclusion, psychosocial and peer support. Albania reported that it gives equal opportunity to women and men and priority is given to women vocational training courses on the basis of “point based system”.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Albania reported having a Victim Assistance Plan aiming to “support the mine and UXO victims throughout Albania” covering all pillars of victim assistance and it is currently being reviewed. The Committee concluded that it would welcome a copy of the Victim Assistance Plan.

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

5. Albania is implementing Action 14 by reporting as follows:
   a. Enhancements made in the health sector, particularly in Kukës Regional Hospital to provide medical and rehabilitation assistance to mine victims;
   b. Prosthetics Workshop is fully integrated within the structures of the government hospital in Kukës and more staff members have been recruited by the physiotherapy unit in order to meet the needs survivors and other persons with disabilities;
   c. Physiotherapy and rehabilitation is integrated into State Faculty, every year, around 30 students trained in physiotherapy with support of Handicap International, and;
   d. Vocational training schools, opened recently all over the country, are accessible to persons with disabilities and survivors.
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)

6. The Albania is implementing aspects of Action 15 by reporting as follows:

   a. Vocational training provided to 25 survivors or family members, including 6 female and 19 male;
   b. At least 31 new prostheses provided to users and 41 were repaired and 1,481 physiotherapy sessions provided to 135 patients in Kukës;
   c. 95 mine/UXO survivors and their family members in Kukës, Has and Tropoja have completed vocational training courses;
   d. Local capacities and financial resources have increased in recent years to respond to the needs of survivors and other persons with disabilities;
   e. 25 survivors were trained in different professions in 2017;
   f. A Community Based Network (CBR) network has been established in northeast of Albania with membership of 30 nurses and two medical specialists to increase support to those in need of assistance in mine affected villages, and;
   g. 84 mine victims and their families have been assisted in establishing home based income-generating projects, such as animal husbandry through revolving loans and technical assistance.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

7. Albania continues to coordinate its victim assistance programmes with stakeholders, by reporting that “all activities were monitored and coordinated by Albanian Mine and Munitions Coordination Office (AMMCO) and carried out in cooperation with various implementing partners including the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Kukës Regional Hospital, and Directorates of Public Health, UNDP Albania, International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security (ITF), University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia and the NGO “Albanian Association for Assistance Integration and Development” (ALB-AID).” The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts in strengthening local capacities related to victim assistance programmes and policies.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

8. Albania reported that mine survivors and other persons with disabilities widely participate in meetings, round tables, seminars, other public events, etc.

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

9. Albania reported that survivors and other persons with disabilities and the local NGOs involved in field of disabilities conduct awareness raising activities on the rights of the persons with disabilities. Albania also reported that since 2007 by law new buildings, roads, sidewalks must be built or adapted according to accessibility standards for persons with disabilities and old building, sidewalks etc. are continuously being made accessible for persons with disabilities.

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

10. Albania has identified challenges in areas of rehabilitation, health, availability of services in remote areas and income generation support, that would need to be addressed and intends to increase assistance in order to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ANGOLA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Angola of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions

Mine casualties

2. Angola did not report mine casualties in 2017 and welcomes information in this regard and the total number of mine victims registered, disaggregated by sex- and age.

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

3. Angola is acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 12, by reporting as follows:
   a. A project was developed with its core activity to register and update data on mine victims and reached 50% of the targets in Namibe province before it was halted in 2014 due to lack of funding. Angola plans to resume this project.

4. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on data compiled in Namibe province, and plans for further assessment of needs and the availability and gaps in services in other mine-affected locations.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. Angola reported on the existence of an action plan on victim assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the overall status of the plan as well as an electronic copy of the action plan.

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

6. Angola reported activities that aimed to enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, as follows:
   a. Strengthening coordination in the field of victim assistance, meetings, information gathering activities, training of partners, fundraising and visits to projects implemented by partners were undertaken.

7. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information including on the allocated budget for the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks.

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. Angola is acting upon aspects of its commitments contained under Action 15, by reporting as follows:
a. 627 mine survivors and persons with disabilities have received physiotherapy through individual or group sessions, including 189 men, 324 women, 69 boys and 45 girls. The data presented, however, only show results produced by the Neves Bendinha Orthopaedic Centre based in Luanda Province;  

b. Gaining a better understanding of the situation through data collection and strengthening coordination among stakeholder;  

c. 48 persons benefited from awareness raising activities including 4 militaries and 44 civilians including 12 men, 26 women, 2 boys and 2 girls;  

d. CNIDAH, MINARS, Lwini Foundation and Neves Bendinhas Orthopaedic Centre assisted their partners and beneficiaries to access rehabilitation aid.  

9. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts in making services such as economic inclusion opportunities available and accessible for mine victims.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

10. Angola reported on efforts to increase coordination among national stakeholders and efforts to increase local capacities, including by supporting nine women victims in establishing an association for women landmine survivors or women with disabilities with the aim of facilitating access to services and the implementation of different actions in support of mine victims.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

11. Angola did not report on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations. The Committee concluded that it welcome information on this matter.

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

12. Angola did not reported on specific efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, efforts to expand quality services in rural and remote areas. The Committee concluded that it welcome information on this matter.

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

13. Angola plans to take action to improve the implementation of victim assistance, including through the following recommendations contained in its report:

   e. Victim Assistance staff participate in seminars and training in countries with greater experience in victim assistance;  

   f. The implementation of the registration project is to be resumed, as it is an important element of victim assistance for the country.  

   g. There is financial availability for the accomplishment of specific tasks;  

   h. The Rapid Response Fund be reactivated and made available.

14. The Committee encourages Angola to increase efforts to achieve Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in lead up to the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and additional information in response to preliminary observations of the Committee. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine Casualties

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the BHMAIS database was continuously updated and the information was available for use by stakeholders in accordance with Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Law on the Protection of Personal Data. The report stated that since 2005 until August 2018, 1,154 mine victims, of which new victims were 181 injured, 162 deaths and 4 unknown. The Committee concluded that it welcomes additional information, disaggregated by sex and age, about the registered victims.

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

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that mine victims were not identified as a particular vulnerable group, therefore, there is no information on efforts that have been made to assess their needs. The rights of mine victims are generally defined by laws for persons with disabilities and they are treated through social and health services and victims’ families are observed through the activities of social institutions or NGOs, sporadically, without a general strategy on this issue. The Committee conclude that Bosnia and Herzegovina should enhance efforts to achieve the objectives of the Action 12.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported not having the capacity in place to implement Action 13 and that the sub-strategy for mine victim assistance 2019-2025 partially defines victim assistance but it has not been implemented. Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently making efforts to formalize the sub-strategy on victim assistance by state institutions. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina should develop and implement time-bound and measurable objectives on victim assistance.

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

5. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported having continuously invested efforts to improve the situation and with increased financial resources the challenges faced in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks will be reduced.

6. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on a 700,000 Euros project that was financed by the Delegation of the European Union that will be implemented in 2018 by ASB, an organisation.

7. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on efforts to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks and on the project being supported by the European Union.
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 concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina was implementing aspects of the Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and economic opportunities, as follows:

   a. Four projects for mine/cluster munition/ERW victims are being implemented, 90 persons directly benefited from assistance. In addition, the Association of Amputees of Republic of Srpska "UDAS" implemented a project for assistance in the field of physical therapy, which benefited nine persons;
   b. A social inclusion training program was conducted according to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 75 home visits were made to the victims of mine/cluster munition/ERW, and;
   c. In 2017 the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina financed a project in support of social and economic empowerment of 50 mine/cluster munitions/ERW victims and their family members.

9. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported lack of disaggregated data on services provided to persons with disabilities hence it is unknown how much of the assistance provided through disability organisations and institutions have benefited mine victims.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

10. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the creation of a Coordination Body for Mine, Cluster Munitions, and ERW Victim Assistance in 2017. However, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that no budget was allocated for activities to be carried by the Coordination Body in 2018. The report indicated that local communities have invested efforts to strengthen the capacities of mine victims but the government has no unified standards in this regard.

11. The Committee welcomes the creation of the Coordination Body for victim assistance implementation and concluded that it would welcome additional information on the enhancement of local capacities related to victim assistance programmes and policies in accordance with Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

12. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that national and international NGOs continuously raise awareness and victims are well informed about their rights, but challenges remain in realising those rights. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts that helped to remove barriers, including physical barriers.

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

13. Bosnia and Herzegovina did not report on efforts to implement Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information in this regard.

14. Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported challenges in areas of availability of resources and shortages in capacity to implement victim assistance and the report stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina needs the active assistance of its international partners and the international community for the implementation of victim assistance. The report indicated that the Coordination Body and the Ministry of Civil Affairs will make efforts to review the status of victim assistance in the country. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina could
increase efforts to achieve the objective of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in advance of the 2019 Review Conference.
1. The Committee welcomes the updates submitted by Burundi containing information on progress and challenges in its victim assistance programmes. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

**Mine casualties**

2. Burundi did not provide an update on new mine casualties. The Committee would welcome information in this regard, as well as on the total number of mine victims in Burundi, including “sex and age-disaggregated data”.

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

3. The Committee concluded that Burundi is acting upon its commitments under Action 12 of the Maputo Action by reporting on data collection in ten provinces of the country. The Directorate General of Civil Protection through DAHMI has collected data on mine victims in the following provinces: Mayor, Dubanza, Cibitoke, Muramvya, Mwaro, Ngozi, Rumonge, Rutana, Bujumbura, and Gitega, and as a result 481 mine victims were identified to be in need of assistance.

4. While acknowledging Burundi’s efforts in identifying mine victims and their needs, the Committee concluded that it would welcome sex- and age-disaggregated information on the 481 identified victims and information on types and magnitude of their needs.

**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)**

5. The Committee concluded that Burundi is acting upon aspects of Action 15 by reporting on direct provisions of assistive products and in-kind assistance to mine victims, as follows:

   a. Mine victims were provided with 40 wheelchairs, 18 tricycles and two prostheses, and;

   b. Mine victims were provided with 126 cartons of soap and one ton of rice.

6. The Committee concluded that it would welcome sex- and age-disaggregated information on mine survivors benefited from assistive products and economic supports, and it would also encourage Burundi to report on efforts, as per Action 15, to increase availability of and accessibility to comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**
7. Burundi did not report on efforts to implement Action 13, Action 14, Action 15, specifically on effort to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims and would welcome information on these matters, Action 16 or on Action 17. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on these efforts.

8. The Committee concluded that Burundi is acting on aspects of the imperatives under Action 18 by providing information concerning challenges facing mine victims and the country’s victim assistance programme, as follows:

a. An overarching challenge is insufficient resources, as victim assistance does not receive the same priority as other pillars of mine action. This has affected Burundi’s plan to set up a mechanism and structure for victim assistance programme;

b. The integration of victim assistance, including integration of care, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims have been undertaking of a slow pace, as victim assistance is seen as the exclusive responsibility of mine action authority. The report also stated that delay in integrating victim assistance into broader contexts, is also due to lack of priority given to victim assistance by stakeholders;

c. Sometimes services offered to victims do not correspond to the needs of victims in terms of quantities and/or qualities, and;

d. Lack of inclusion and participation of landmine survivors in decision-making processes and lack of reliable data have added upon the list of challenges in victim assistance in Burundi.

9. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to overcome the identified challenges in advance of the next Review Conference.
1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and additional information provided in response to Committee’s preliminary observations. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Cambodia provided an update on the number of new mine victims with 58 victims registered in 2017, including 5 women, 35 men, 4 girls and 14 boys. Of this total, 10 persons were killed and 48 persons were injured, with 13 of the injured suffered amputations.

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

3. Cambodia reported on a primary data collection or Quality of Life Survey (QLS) of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities, covering 652 villages, 124 communes, 50 districts in 25 provinces, with direct interview conducted with 4,862 persons with disabilities (1,635 women) including 1,066 mine/ERW survivors (88 women). The report indicated that the survey found that most of the survivors met, had received assistance. The report also stated that the QLS showed that 730 persons with disabilities (15 per cent) of the 4,862 persons lacked access to services and hadn’t received relevant information as they lived in areas difficult to reach.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee concluded that Cambodia is acting upon its commitments under Action 13, by reporting the followings:

   a. A National Disability Strategy Plan for the period of 2018-2022 was developed and it will be adopted in 2018;
   b. The 2009 Law on the protection and the promotion of the right of persons with disabilities guarantees the rights of all persons with disabilities in the country;
   c. The National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 which was adopted in 2017 contains objectives in relation to survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war as well as indirect victims, ensuring adequate and gender-sensitive medical and psychological care and physical rehabilitation;
   d. The National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 emphasizes institutional capacity development, knowledge, professional skills, job creation, and a gradual move towards elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against persons with disabilities, and responsibility of institutions in charge of implementation at both national and sub-national levels.

5. The Committee concluded that it would welcome copies of the action plans and the law in electronic format.

Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)
6. The Committee concluded that Cambodia is implementing aspects of Action 14, including by embedding victim assistance into disability and development laws and plans, and by highlighting victim assistance in the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025. The reported indicated that the Government of Cambodia has allocated an annual budget of US$250,000 to support the implementation of the victim assistance components of the Strategy. Cambodia reported that as the country is shifting from low to a middle-income country the level of available donor funding has changed and that the government of Cambodia has been integrating victim assistance into the Persons with Disabilities Fund managed by Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.

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 concluded that Cambodia is acting upon commitments under Action 15 by reporting on assistance provided to survivors and persons with disabilities in areas of health, rehabilitation, psychological recovery, social and economic inclusion, as follows:

a. Medical care and rehabilitation support provided to survivors of mines and explosive remnants of war and persons with disabilities, including physiotherapy and surgery, provided to 10,488 persons; delivery of physical rehabilitation assistance such as prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches cans and walking frames provided to 27,111 persons,
b. Physical Rehabilitation Centres produced and repaired 26,185 assistive products;
c. Community-based psychological rehabilitation provided to 14,524 persons with disabilities, those in need were referred to services such as education, healthcare, disability empowerment, prostheses, orthotics, and wheelchairs/tricycles distributed and repaired, gender training, job placement, small business management, formation of self-help groups and provided with small grants;
d. Community based rehabilitation provides small grants to persons with disabilities to establish income-generating businesses;
e. Training and access to education for 232 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, enrolled to primary schools; 71 persons provided with vocational training; 17 persons trained on management of small business; 35 survivors were selected for vocational training coordinated by the CMAA, and;
f. Social and economic support for persons with disabilities and survivors resulted in 45 persons receiving support in participating in sports and other community activities, 20 persons receiving grants to create their small business.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. The Committee concluded that Cambodia has undertaken activities to improve national capacities and coordination in relation to assistance to mine victims, by reporting the followings:

a. Training provided to 176 persons in Kep and Svay Rieng provinces to improve data collection when registering or surveying persons with disabilities;
b. Training provided to 48 survivor networks’ volunteers to support data collection, policy development and planning, coordination and peer support among volunteers with funding provided by Canada;
c. CMAA produced a peer counselling manual and trained members of the volunteer survivor networks in the first quarter of 2018;

a. Training provided to survivors to enhance job and work skills;
b. CMAA continued playing an important role to coordinate with relevant stakeholders any support provided to mine/ERW survivors;
c. Disability Action Council (DAC) and the Ministry of Social Affairs Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation continued being key to coordinate with persons with disabilities including mine/ERW survivors, and;
d. CMAA helped in establishing a coordinating body at the sub-national level and creating working groups on disabilities at relevant ministries and institutions in order to promote the enforcement of regulatory framework relating to disabilities.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

9. The Committee concluded that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment under Action 16, by reporting that mine victims and representative organisations were consulted in the development of law on the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities; national mine action strategy 2018-2025 and the sub-degree for supporting poor persons with disabilities in the communities. The report also indicated that mine victims and persons with disabilities have been given the opportunity to raise problems, challenges and needs for action by stakeholders, including government officials.

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

10. The Committee concluded that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment to raise awareness by reporting on the dissemination of information, raising awareness among 134 mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities and holding of 48 open day awareness raising events in 2017 that reached 474 persons with disabilities including mine victims by the 11 physical rehabilitation centres across the country.

11. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on activities that help to remove barriers, including physical barriers.

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

12. The Committee concluded that Cambodia remains committed to providing financial support to CMAA, especially to the Victim Assistance Department with an amount approximately $250,000 each year for the implementation of the following activities:

a. Quality of Life Survey (QLS) through 48 volunteer survivor networks;
b. Public disability forum to promote the rights and address the needs of persons with disabilities include mine/ERW victims;
c. Disaggregated data on mine/ERW victims, including services received from physical rehabilitation centres to be recorded in the CMAA database;
d. Engagement with local authorities to promote disseminating the law on the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and other government policies supporting persons with disabilities;
e. Case study and assessment of the process and implementation of the self-help group which are persons with disabilities includes mine/ERW victims, and;
f. Emergency response to mine/ERW victims.

13. Cambodia reported measurable improvements in the delivery of assistance to survivors and persons with disabilities, and indicated the need for continuing financial support in order to assist persons with disabilities including mine victims in rural and remote areas.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY CHAD

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Chad of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Chad reported a total 136 mines/ERW casualties, including 33 killed and 113 injured in Borkou and Tibesti regions in 2017, which shows a significant increase in comparison to 27 casualties reported in 2016. The Committee concluded that it would welcome this information disaggregated by sex and age.

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

3. Chad reported on assessment of mine victims in Borkou and Tibesti in 2017, and indicated that, in general, victims face rising problems of access to services of all kinds, including due to inaccessibility of roads that hinder service delivery to victims and their referral to services. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information on any plans to address these challenges.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee noted that a time-bound, five-year plan of action developed in 2016 was still awaiting validation by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The Committee concluded that it would be important for Chad to review the relevance of the plan given that the two-years have passed from the time it was developed, and adopt it. The Committee concluded that it would also welcome a copy of the plan, once validated.

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)

5. Chad did not report on commitments outlined under Action 15, neither on recommendations made by the Committee in 2017 in relation to Chad’s efforts to address the following challenges reported in 2016:

   a. Lack of technical expertise in rehabilitation, education and economic integration;
   b. Lack of facilities and equipment for medical care, rehabilitation, education, and economic integration;
   c. Lack of coordination of victim assistance and social and cultural barriers which impede the participation and interaction of persons with disability in society.

6. The Committee encourages Chad to fulfil its commitments under Action 15 and report on plans and activities addressing the reported challenges.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)
7. Chad reported on efforts to coordinate victim assistance with the participation of stakeholders in the Coordination Group for Victim Assistance (CGVA), but did not report on efforts to increase local capacities for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on this matter.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

8. Chad reported that in 2016 it was agreed that the CGVA would be composed of two organizations of persons with disabilities involved in victim assistance issues along with the Mine Action Centre, the Directorate for the Integration of Victims Persons with Disabilities, the National Centre for Equipment and Rehabilitation and Humanity & Inclusion to follow up the implementation of the victim assistance action plan, but the action plan had remained invalidated.

9. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on Chad’s efforts to include mine victims in victim assistance activities and other relevant programmes and forums, such as disability policies and programmes.

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

10. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported any efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other forms of barriers, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

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

11. The Committee concluded that Chad had not reported on efforts to implement Action 14 – 15 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

12. The Committee encourages Chad to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the 2019 Review Conference.
1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Colombia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017, containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Colombia reported 56 mine victims in 2017, including 50 male, 6 female, and 10 children. The reported indicated that by the end of 2017, 3,440 persons with disabilities registered had been caused by mines/explosive remnants of war or unexploded ordinance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information, disaggregated by sex and age.

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

3. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon requirements of Action 12 by reporting on efforts to collect comprehensive data and improving mechanisms for the implementation of victim assistance, by reporting as follows:

a. A functional data collection mechanism, such as a surveillance system in public health is in place and it is operated by the National Institute of Health. The surveillance system collects comprehensive data including on characteristics and causes of injuries such as anti-personnel mines;

b. Based on the data collected, the reported stated that in 2017, 12.5% of all injuries registered in the surveillance system were caused by anti-personnel mines, along with more details on age groups and location of accidents;

c. An information service on survivors of anti-personal mines (SISMAP) was created in 2017, to strengthen and improve data collection, information analysis, monitoring and follow up among other activities;

d. Since SISMAP was launched, the system has helped to identify 1,691 victims, providing a better understanding of the victims’ situation which has contributed to better formulate policies and programmes, and;

e. With the aim of filling service gaps, several initiatives relating to surveillance, health, social security, and the elimination of discrimination and marginalization were reported.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Colombia reported having a plan on victim assistance developed by the Technical Subcommittee on Victim Assistance in the framework of the National Inter-Sectoral Committee for Action against Mines (CINAMAP) with the participation of stakeholders, including survivors and their representative organizations. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 through continued efforts to identify victims’ needs, increased efforts to strengthen implementation and monitoring mechanisms, including for inclusion and participation of mine victims throughout the country. The Committee concluded that it would welcome an electronic copy of Colombia’s plan on victim assistance.
Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)

5. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon its commitments under Action 14, including through engaging health service providers, health surveillance, social protection, recreation and sports sectors, education, municipalities, organisations of persons with disabilities in strengthening, developing, delivery, monitoring and follow up of assistance to mine victims and other persons with disabilities, and by the followings:

   a. Six circulars, decrees and resolutions were issued by the government in bringing improvements in assistance provided to mine victims including in areas of administrative processes, health and rehabilitation, sexual and reproductive rights, inclusive education and provision of education in a non-discriminatory approach, and the right to employment and work in public entities;
   b. A total of COP $ 1.8 billion was allocated to victims in 2017, with COP $ 16,000,000,000 to health sector with a focus to increase access to health services for victims of armed conflict, including COP $ 6,370,000,000 for psychological support of mines/explosive remnants of war victims, and;
   c. The Ministry of Labour had started bringing adjustments to labour policies to ensure persons with disabilities have access to reasonable and decent employment and work.

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)

6. The Committee concluded that Colombia was implementing requirements outlined under Action 15 to increase availability of and accessibility to services, by reporting as follows:

   d. Improved policies, service delivery procedures, coordination and the overall rights of persons with disabilities including mine victims;
   e. In accordance with the transformative reparation approach of Law 1448 (Victims and Land Restitution Law) efforts continued to improve the quality of life of victims of conflict, including mine victims;
   f. In response to a request made by the District Association of Survivors of Anti-Personnel Mines (ANT), the Government awarded 22 families, victims of conflict including seven mine victims, with rural properties in the Armero Guayabal municipality, Department of Tolima;
   g. While access to comprehensive care has improved, the report indicated the need for further efforts to enhance access to health care, including by undertaking awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities, and;
   h. Targeted efforts to increase attention in support of children and adolescents victims of armed conflicts, including mine victims.

7. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on mine victims that have benefited from these services disaggregated by sex and age.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon its commitments by developing survivors’ and their organisations’ capacities through various means, including comprehensive post-conflict training – the latter provided to affected populations in Colombia. Colombia reported on well-established mechanisms such as the technical committee on victim assistance, General System of Social Security in Health, and comprehensive support including capacity building provided by the mine action centre, in coordination with stakeholders.
9. The Committee concluded that Colombia was implementing Action 16 by providing opportunities for inclusion and participation of mine victims and persons with disabilities through coordination mechanisms in place, including supporting organizations representing persons with disabilities, regular meetings with victims, and promoting peer support through their respective networks.

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

10. The Committee concluded that Colombia was acting upon its commitments under Actions 15 and 17 by reporting on awareness raising and enhancing implementation support mechanisms to expand services and increase the reach of mine victims to services they need.

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

11. The Committee concluded that Colombia has undertaken a comprehensive programme and indicated significant improvement in policies, plans, and service delivery. This included mapping out some remaining challenges including in access to services, provision of comprehensive care and victim reparation, access to rights and overall empowerment of victims. The Committee encourages Colombia to continue its efforts to achieve Actions 12-18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the upcoming Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY CROATIA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE (Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Croatia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Croatia did not report any mine accidents and/or related casualties in 2017.

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

3. The Committee concluded that Croatia was acting upon its commitments under Action 12 by reporting on the following aspects of its efforts to assess the needs of mine victims, and to strengthen mechanisms for providing increased assistance to mine victims:

   a. Continued “advisory support to mine victims and their families” and data collection on mine victims and their needs during the process of the non-technical survey since 2014, in order to establish a “unique Mine Victim Database”, and;

   b. Efforts to create a Mine Victim Database will be financed through the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation programme and it will be implemented by the "Demining and Socio-economic Integration" project with a goal of establishing functional mine victims’ database to serve as a basis for developing further and strengthening policy actions in support of mine victims.

4. The Committee commends Croatia for reporting on its strategic efforts to collect data on mine victims, and it observed that it would welcome additional information on the status and use of the Mine Victim Database as well as information on the results of data that have been collected concerning mine victims and their needs since 2014, disaggregated by sex and age.

5. The Committee concluded that it would encourage Croatia to report on efforts to assess the availability and gaps in services, on existence and functions of referral mechanisms which facilitate mine victims’ access to services, and would also welcome additional information regarding the advisory supports provided to mine victims and their families, disaggregated by sex- and age.

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

6. The Committee concluded that Croatia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the provision of assistance to mine victims through broader health care services and institutions, as follows:
a. The country has developed public health care structure that includes clinics, clinical centres, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres, and that all victims are entitled to health protection and orthopaedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute;
b. These rights, namely access to health care services, are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations, and;
c. In accordance with the Law on Mine Action, mine victims assistance was conducted with the coordinating role of the Government Office for Mine Action and in co-operation with CROMAC, relevant ministries and NGOs. Other forms of aid were mainly implemented by non-governmental sector, and funding was secured through donations from international and domestic entities, the reported elaborated.

**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 concluded that with the exception of efforts ensuring access to health care services by mine victims, Croatia did not report on specific efforts to increase availability of and accessibility to other appropriate comprehensive services such as economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, and would encourage Croatia to provide with information, disaggregated by sex- and age, concerning efforts to increase availability of and access to services.

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

8. The Committee concluded that Croatia had not reported on efforts to implement Action 13, Action 15, in particular on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims, Action 16 or Action 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

9. The Committee observed that while Croatia reported on efforts, such as collection of data and plans to create a victims database, it had not reported on identified challenges that remain and priorities for assistance, in advance of the next Review Conference. The Committee observed that would encourage Croatia to report on its plans for identification of remaining challenges, priorities and plans in ahead of the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.
1. The Committee welcomes the submission by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of its Article 7 report for the period of 2014 to 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported 156 mine casualties, disaggregated by sex and age, including 44 in 2014, 16 in 2015, 36 in 2016, 51 in 2017 and 9 in 2018 in North Kivu, South Kivu, Kasai-Central, Kasai, Upper Lomami, Ituri and Upper Uele provinces, which have increased the total number of registered mine victims in the country to 2,719.

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

3. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported continued efforts to identify and register new mine victims. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the results of the National Strategic Plan developed in 2010 to assist victims, including improving the data collection and systems to analyse data. The Committee further concluded that it would also welcome information on efforts to assess the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialised services, disaggregated by sex and age.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that since the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan, the country had not updated previous plans or developed a new plan of action for the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop a time-bound and measurable plan of action to achieve the objectives outlined under Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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)

5. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported on the availability of rehabilitation assistance in collaboration with the ICRC and Heri Kwetu Orthopedic Centres in Bukavu (South Kivu Province), Kalembe-lembe and the Centre for Disability in Kinshasa, Shirika la Umoja in Goma (North Kivu Province), University Clinics of Kinshasa and Jukay Centre in Kananga (Kasai-Central). The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information, disaggregated by sex- and age, on mine victims that have benefited from these services.

6. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that since 2012 there has been a lack of post-traumatic rehabilitation programmes, psychological support, economic reintegration assistance and social reintegration and would welcome information on current or planned efforts to make such services available to all mine victims.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)
7. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that the Victim Assistance Coordination Group that was led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity has been inactive as a result of a restructuring of the Ministry in 2016, and that in January 2018, the Congolese Mine Action Centre has activated the coordination group on victim assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance sub-national coordination of victim assistance efforts.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

8. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that victims’ associations have always been involved in all activities that concern them as well as in other activities of the mine action programme. The committee welcomes additional information on the frequency and the level of participation of mine victims, including in mine-affected provinces.

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

9. The Committee concluded that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not reported on efforts to implement Action 14 and Action 15 and 17, in particular on actions taken to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, or raising awareness on the rights of mine victims, and would welcome information on these matters.

10. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported a number of challenges such as the absence of a victim assistance action plan since the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan, discontinuation of projects concerning post-traumatic rehabilitation, psychological support, economic and social reintegration, and social reintegration as well as a lack of coordination due to inactiveness of the victim assistance coordination group, which has been re-launched in early 2018.

11. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ETHIOPIA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Ethiopia of information on its victim assistance activities for the period of 2016-2017. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Ethiopia did not report new casualties in 2017. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information on the total number of recorded mine casualties and mine victims, disaggregated by gender and age.

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

3. Ethiopia did not report efforts to assess the needs of mine victims, but it has reported that it has incorporated the need to collect disaggregated data on mine victims in the forthcoming Ethiopian National Population and Housing census of 2018, to provide the necessary data for victim assistance intervention. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on this effort.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Ethiopia reported on the integration of victim assistance into broader disability frameworks in Ethiopia’s national plan of action on human rights with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs being a member of the steering committee that oversees the implementation of the plan. The Committee concluded that it would welcome an electronic copy of this plan.

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

5. Ethiopia is acting upon its commitments under Action 14 by reporting efforts in enhancing a progressive integration of victim assistance in areas of health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction and promoting the inclusion and participation of mine victims. Ethiopia has reported that it has no specific national victim assistance programme as the needs of mine victims have been addressed through mechanisms in place for persons with disabilities.

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)

6. Ethiopia is acting upon its commitments under Action 15 by including the needs of mine victims and other persons with disabilities in policies and programmes such as education, employment, health and broader development and poverty reduction, and would welcome gender and sex-disaggregated information on mine victims that have benefited from such policies and programmes.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)
7. Ethiopia reported continued coordination under the lead of the MOLSA and through an inter-
ministerial and inter-sectorial coordinating mechanism with the participation of civil society 
organisations. Ethiopia did not report on efforts to improve local capacities. The Committee 
concluded that it would welcome information in this regard.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

8. Ethiopia is acting upon its commitments in facilitating inclusion and participation of mine victims 
as part of its broader work on disabilities as promoting inclusion is a key principle of 
proclamation 916/2016/17. In line with Article 33 of the CRPD, each ministry is mandated by 
proclamation 916/2016 “to create within its powers, conditions whereby persons with 
disabilities benefit from equal opportunities and participation”.

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

9. Ethiopia had reported activities to raise awareness on the rights and needs of persons with 
disabilities and mine victims including for 500 persons in education and development sectors, 
and using the Ethiopian Building Code to promote physical accessibility of public building with 
the support of the Ministry of Reconstruction and Urban Development.

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

10. Ethiopia had reported measurable improvements and challenges concerning understanding the 
degree of employment among mine victims and persons with disabilities and unavailability of 
disaggregated data on mine victims. The Committee encourages Ethiopia to increase efforts to 
achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the upcoming Review 
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY IRAQ

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Iraq of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Iraq reported 17 casualties in 2017, including 14 men and 3 children including 12 injured and 5 killed in Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Basra and Maysan provinces of Iraq, demonstrating a reduction in the number of registered victims compared to the 27 casualties reported in 2016.

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)

3. The Committee concluded that Iraq was acting upon aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of services, by providing direct health care, rehabilitation and socio-economic support to over 500 mine victims and persons with disabilities in 2017, as follows:

   a. 43 mine victims including 42 women and 1 man were provided with jobs by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs;
   b. 352 mine victims were provided with artificial limbs (252), crutches (43), toilet chair (3), white canes (4), electric wheelchair and other support (1) by the Ministry of Health;
   c. 10 physical rehabilitation centres around the country benefited from the raw materials, equipment and training courses provided by the ICRC, and;
   d. 106 persons with disabilities were provided with economic and rehabilitation aid by the ICRC.

4. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these matters, including on efforts to increase accessibility to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by gender and age.

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

5. The Committee concluded that Iraq had not reported on efforts to implement Action 12, Action 13, Action 14, Action 15, in particular on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims, Action 16 or Action 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

6. The Committee encourages Iraq to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.
1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Jordan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and the submission of additional information in response to Committee’s preliminary observations. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on the number of mine casualties on areas under its territory or control for the year 2017.

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

3. Jordan reported that at present there is no system to assess the availability and gaps in services and that referral to services has been facilitated by the victim assistance coordinator of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR). Jordan also reported that NCDR remains responsible to collect data on new casualties and that NCDR, with limited resources, works to update a needs assessment survey that was previously done on victim assistance and mine action.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee noted that Jordan had integrated victim assistance in its 2015-2020 NCDR National Plan outlining activities in areas of coordination, rehabilitation, and economic reintegration. Jordan has also reported and shared a copy of the 2017 Law (No. 20) on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which guarantees the rights of all persons with disabilities.

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

5. Jordan reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks relating to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, including through:

   a. Making victim assistance an integral part of the country’s five-year National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, and;
   b. Including victim assistance in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as an effort to guarantee the rights of survivors to health care services, rehabilitation, work, and education.

6. Jordan reported that an annual budget of $200,000 is included in the NCDR’s 2015-2020 National Plan for the implementation of victim assistance. In response to the Committee’s preliminary observation, Jordan reported that due to lack of funding since 2012, very limited objectives have been achieved in 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 concluded that Jordan was acting upon aspects of Action 15 by reporting on efforts on health care and rehabilitation and provision of small loans (of $4,200) in cooperation with Agricultural Fund to create income-generating projects that improve civil mine/ERW victims’ economies. NCDR continues to provide monthly financial support to mine/ERW victims through the Office of the Crown Prince according to the needs and priorities, the report stated. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the number of mine/ERW victims that have benefited from assistance, disaggregated by gender and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

8. Jordan did not report on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on these matters.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

9. Jordan reported that victims had actively participated when the NCDR implemented victim assistance projects. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on participation and inclusion of mine/ERW victims in other relevant programmes and forums.

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

10. Jordan reported that a new prosthetic and orthotic centre was established closer to where victims reside in the northern part of Jordan. The Ministry of Health has provided two ambulances to be used in remote areas, the report stated. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on awareness-raising efforts.

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

11. Jordan reported a key challenge in lack of funding for victim assistance programme since 2012. The report stated that priorities are to reinforce efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance. The Committee encourages Jordan to increase efforts to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SENEGAL

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Senegal of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and the submission of additional information in response to the Committee’s preliminary observations, on 7 June 2018. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Senegal reported one accident in 2017, which had caused three casualties, and increased the total number of mine victims to 829, of which 593 have been injured and 236 have been killed. No casualty was reported in 2016, and one man was killed by a mine accident in 2015. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information disaggregated by sex and age on all registered casualties.

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

3. The Committee concluded that Senegal was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 12, by reporting as follows:

   a. CNAMS continued collecting data on mine victims, in collaboration with its partners including, local associations, NGOs and armed forces, and;
   b. Information collected includes the identification of victims and their needs, such as their rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration needs. These efforts are expected to facilitate the free access of victims to physical rehabilitation, mental health and socio-economic integration.

4. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on efforts to assess the needs of all victims and the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialized services.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. Senegal reported that its National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance (PANAV) was ended in 2014 and that due to lack of financial resources the plan has not been renewed. The renewal of the plan, however, has been included in CNAMS’ 2018 work plan, but no action has been taken in this regard due to lack of funding. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to mobilize resources for this effort.

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

6. Senegal reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, as follows:
   a. Health assistance systems for people with disabilities is set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Action including a national social welfare service established and social workers appointed to hospitals and an equal opportunities card provided to people with
disabilities, including mine victims, ensuring their right to free access to various services including health care. The card has been made available and distributed in the mine-affected regions. Senegal further reported that its armed forces play an important role in providing emergency relief to mine victims, and;

b. With the Equal Opportunity Card that mine victims and persons with disabilities receive they are provided with free access to various services provided by the State. 195,880,720 CFA francs had been budgeted for the implementation of the PANAV.

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 concluded that Senegal is acting upon its commitments contained under Action 15 in relation to the availability of and accessibility to services, by indicating that support for mobility is fundamental for the socio-economic integration of victims of mines and by reporting the following:

a. Maintenance of capacity within the regional hospitals in mine-affected regions of Ziguinchor, Kolda and Sedhiou, to ensure availability of free emergency relief support, subsequent medical care and assistive products for mine victims;

b. Maintenance of three departmental health centres in Oussouye, Bignona and Goudomp, to continue responding to the needs of mine victims in affected areas by providing free care and prescribed drugs to mine victims. In 2017, 34 mine survivors with prescriptions benefitted from free health and drug assistance. These forms of assistance are regulated by bilateral agreements signed between the CNAMS and health centres, which have been approved under the National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance or PANAV;

c. A National Community Based Rehabilitation Program (PNRBC) is in the process of being validated;

d. In last two years, 85 mine victims including 61 men and 24 women were provided with prostheses by a Rehabilitation Center of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, in partnership with the ICRC. Almost the entire target was able to benefit from new equipment. This project will continue in 2018, and it continues to serve as an example of South-South cooperation between two States Parties to the Convention, Senegal and Guinea Bissau;

e. 18 student mine victims, including one girl, were provided with psychological support, and;

f. A psychiatric centre in Ziguichor continued providing free assistance to mine victims with psychological disorders. In addition, mine victim-students benefit from psychological support through the Academic Center for Educational and Vocational Guidance (CAOSP).

8. In response to the Committee’s observations concerning the need for disaggregated information by sex- and age, Senegal has stated that victims’ needs are not identified according to gender but based on the state of their physical and/or psychologic health and according to their status.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. Senegal reported on the existence of regional and departmental coordination committees being in place in three administrative regions of Casamance to coordinate victim assistance activities. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to strengthen local capacities.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)
10. Senegal reported that representatives of mine victims’ organisations participate in all consultations in relation to victim assistance and relevant updates and information have been shared with them.

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

11. Senegal did not report on specific efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, efforts to expand quality services in rural and remote areas, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on these matters.

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

12. Senegal reported measurable improvements, particularly as related to health care and rehabilitation of mine victims, and enhancement of victim assistance to mainstream mechanisms, such as social welfare and health, and it has identified the following challenges:

   a. seeking additional financial means;
   b. acquiring quality prostheses;
   c. psychological support, and;
   d. economic inclusion and access to income.

13. Senegal reported that in order to ensure a more sustainable programme for mine victims, its victim assistance programme is in need of cooperation and assistance.

14. The Committee encourages Senegal to increase efforts to achieve Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in lead up to the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SERBIA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Serbia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Serbia had not reported on the number of mine casualties on areas under its territory or control for the year 2017.

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

3. Serbia reported that a Working Group on Victims Assistance was in place with the necessary authorization and funding to undertake all necessary actions for the benefit of victims, including mapping of existing services. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information, disaggregated by sex and age, on efforts to assess the needs of mine victims.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Serbia reported that the 2007-2015 strategy on disabilities was in force and that a new strategy was in the process of adoption. Serbia reported that the status and the rights of disabled veterans and civilian war victims will be equal to those of persons with disabilities in the new strategy. In addition, the report includes a set of activities pursued by the Working Group on Victim Assistance in promoting assistance to mine victims, as follows:

   a. Proposing measures to enhance the place of the victims of anti-personal mines;
   b. Proposing measures to enhance the legislative framework for the protection of the anti-personnel mine victims;
   c. Monitoring alignment with the applicable legislation regulating the protection of mines victims with international and national laws;
   d. Proposing special programmes and measures to empower mines victims;
   e. Cooperation with the associations of mine victims and civil society; organizations involved in enhancement of victim assistance;
   f. Cooperation with relevant institutions from abroad, international organizations and national working groups of the equivalent or similar profile with a view to exchanging experience and good practices;
   g. Monitoring progress regarding the provision of victim assistance within wider national plans and legal framework, and;
   h. Mapping all the existing services.

5. The Committee encourages Serbia to develop the above objectives into a time-bound and measurable plan of action on victim assistance.

Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)
6. The Committee concluded that Serbia was acting upon its commitments to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks, by reporting the followings:

a. Development of an inclusive membership to the Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA), with representations from the Ministries of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health, Education, Science and Technological Development and Mine Action Centre of Serbia. In addition to these entities, the WGVA includes representatives from employment, gender equality, disabilities, cooperation and inclusive education domains of member ministries in the Working Group. NGOs are also expected to participate in the activities of the Group;

b. The Department for Antidiscrimination Policy and Promotion of Gender Equality was established within the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs in 2017, to monitor enforcement of the anti-discriminatory policy and advance gender equality in cooperation with civil society, and;

c. The WGVA works with relevant ministries and institutions to promote victim assistance, including by monitoring progress in the implementation of victim assistance within wider national plans and legal framework.

**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 concluded that Serbia is implementing aspects of Action 15, by reporting as follows:

a. Efforts by the WGVA and the Antidiscrimination Department to increase availability and access to services, especially through coordination efforts and policy work, and;

b. All municipalities in Serbia have services for the protection of veterans and the disabled that can be contacted by disabled civilian veterans for specific types of assistance.

8. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the results of those efforts among mine victims, and their access to services, regardless of their gender and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

9. The Committee concluded that Serbia was acting upon aspects of requirements under Action 15, by reporting on significant plans and activities of the Working Group on Victim Assistance concerning coordination of policies and programmes on victim assistance, including agreeing on the need for stronger coordination between victims and government. The report also indicated that capacity building was one of the activities undertaken by NGOs with financial aids provided by the Serbian government.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

10. Serbia reported on the participation of NGOs in activities of the Working Group on Victim Assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome further information on the inclusion and the active participation of mine survivors.

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

11. Serbia reported on efforts to remove barriers, such as through enhanced measures for gender equality and anti-discrimination, social protection services in remote and rural areas to expand social welfare quality assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on targeted efforts to raise awareness on the rights and needs of mine victims.
Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

12. Serbia reported on plans and objectives for an improved victim assistance programme. The Committee encourages Serbia to identify remaining challenges, priorities and increase efforts in order to achieve the objectives of the Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, by the upcoming Review Conference.
1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Somalia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Somalia had reported 13 mine casualties in 2017 and in total around 1,000 victims registered. Somalia further reported that the Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) plans to verify the number of registered victims if funding is secured. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information disaggregated by gender and age of casualties and registered mine victims.

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

3. Somalia had reported that due to lack of funds no victim assistance activity has been implemented. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on Somalia’s efforts to mobilize funding for victim assistance.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Somalia did not reported time-bound and measurable objectives to implement the Maputo Action Plan’s victim assistance commitments. The Committee concluded that the communication of these objectives would be important and may support resource mobilization efforts.

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

5. Somalia reported that SEMA has been working on the adoption of legislation by parliament during its upcoming session, following which SEMA will be provided with an earmarked budget. The Committee concluded that it would welcome more information concerning the legislation and the expected dedicated budget whether that will be intended only for victim assistance or for all activities of SEMA.

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

6. The Committee concluded that Somalia had not reported on efforts to implement Action 15 – 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

7. Somalia reported that lack of resources as a major challenge hindering the implementation of victim assistance activities. The Committee concluded that Somalia should develop a resource mobilization plan for victim assistance. The Committee encourages Somalia to report on improvements made in victim assistance, including through other ministries and institutions in the country, and to increase efforts to meet the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the next Review Conference of the Convention in 2019.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SOUTH SUDAN

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by South Sudan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. South Sudan reported 25 accidents which have injured 50 and killed eight people in 2017, which represents 13 more casualties compared to 2016. These casualties occurred in the states of Western Bahr El Ghazal (4), Upper Nile (5), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (6), Eastern Equatoria (5), Unity (8), Jonglei (13) and Central Equatoria (17). The Committee concluded that it would welcome information disaggregated by sex and age.

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

3. South Sudan reported on the financial challenges that the National Mine Action Authority, Ministries of Gender and Health, and civil society organizations face in relation to victim assistance implementation, affecting provisions of medical care, referrals, and socio-economic inclusion supports, and that poverty has forced landmine survivors and persons with disabilities to beg on the streets, and even result to occurrences of “death” among the victims.

4. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services, where possible.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. South Sudan did not report on efforts to establish time-bound and measurable objectives in order to address the challenges mentioned under Action 12.

6. In 2017 South Sudan had reported that the passing of the draft national disability policy to protect all persons with disability was delayed by the national parliament of South Sudan until 2016 and it had hindered implementation of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee concluded that it would welcome an update in this regard.

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

7. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had not reported on efforts to implement Action 13 – Action 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.
8. The Committee concluded that South Sudan is acting upon its commitments under Action 18, by reporting on major challenges and priorities in the field of victim assistance and by calling for cooperation and assistance, as follows:

   a. Activities of the National Mine Action Authority, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of health, civil society organizations on victim assistance are hindered by financial challenges;
   b. Despite the fact that ICRC is supporting rehabilitation in South Sudan, there is no proper medical care especially for those that need to be treated outside of South Sudan;
   c. Efforts to advance social and economic inclusion and empowerment of mine victims remain inadequate;
   d. The coordination forum has become very small as most of the organizations are not operational anymore;
   e. Landmine victims and persons with disabilities experience “death” as a result of poverty;
   f. Landmine victims and persons with disabilities beg on the streets for survival;
   b. National organizations lack funding to implement their activities, and to participate in relevant planning and decision makings, and;
   a. South Sudan appeals for assistance and funding for vocational training of mine victims and persons with disabilities in order to enable them to work, to compete in business sector, and to be able to generate income for their families.

9. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these matters, including efforts to formulate challenges and priorities into time-bound and measurable plan of action, in advance of the upcoming Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SUDAN

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities and the submission of additional information on its victim assistance programme. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine Casualties

2. Sudan reported 37 casualties in 2017, making it a total of 2,101 mines and explosive remnants of war victims registered, with 1,498 injured and 603 killed including 1,424 male, 175 female and 530 children. Disaggregated information on 490 victims is not available.

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

3. Sudan had reported on an established system for a regular data collection on mine and ERW victims and following the collection and refinement of data they are entered into NMAC’s database (IMSMA) and made available for planning purposes. The latest national mine victims’ survey, however, was conducted in over ten years ago through 2007 Landmine Impact Survey. The Committee concluded that it would welcome addition information on the system in place for regular data collection.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Sudan reported on the existence of a Victim Assistance Strategy valid until 2019. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts by Sudan to review the implementation of the strategy and develop a new strategy.

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

5. Sudan is acting upon its commitments under Action 14 by reporting, as follows:
   a. NMAC has been working closely with relevant ministries, and support strategies on education, higher education, health, labour and economic empowerment and social security on persons with disabilities including mine survivors;
   b. NMAC has aligned its activities with the provisions of the CRPD, including through working with the National Council of Disabled People (NCDP) which oversees the implementation of the CRPD;
   c. In spite of limited services available, all mine and ERW victims have been granted equal opportunities to access services provided by the government including those made available by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and other humanitarian organisations;
   d. 5% of jobs at governmental institutions are allocated to persons with disabilities by Labour Law;
   e. As noted in its 2017 conclusions, the Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on the number of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, that have benefited from the Labour Law.
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)

6. The Committee concluded that Sudan was implementing aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and socio-economic opportunities, as follows:

   a. The Victim Assistance Strategy 2016-2019 continued to be implemented with objectives to improve data collection, enhance services to affected areas, promote psychological support, improve economic inclusions, promote coordination and strengthen laws and policies;
   b. AAR Japan, in collaboration with Friends Of Peace & Development Organization (FPDO), has assisted 60 mine victims by providing assistive devices, supports for socio-economic inclusion, income generation and psychosocial aid in Kassala, an eastern state in Sudan;
   c. FPDO advanced socio-economic integration of 20 beneficiaries including by providing them with assistive devices and psychosocial support, with funding provided by Italy;
   d. Rehab and economic assistance such as prosthetic limbs, mobility aids and micro-economic projects were established in the affected states (Kassala, North Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan);
   e. JASMAR had started assisting 88 beneficiaries in terms of psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, socio-economic and income generation in Blue Nile and South Kordofan and aimed at supporting 50 victims and their families through health insurance service, and;
   f. NMUMAD has assisted 20 beneficiaries in North Darfur state to advance their socio-economic integration, funded by UNAMID-ODO.

7. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these efforts, disaggregating support by sex and age.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. Sudan reported on efforts such as holding workshops on project management and capacity building of civil society organisations with a focus on service delivery as well as on active coordination system in place that held monthly coordination meetings with stakeholders in addition to a quarterly coordination meeting held between NMAC and NCDP.

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

9. Sudan reported on efforts to raise awareness on, and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and efforts such as working with SRCS to enhance services in remote and affected areas. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on effort to remove barriers, such as removing physical barriers.

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

10. Sudan did not report on efforts to implement Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee concluded that it welcomes information in this regard.

11. Sudan reported on the challenges in providing services, as follows:

   a. The fact that most of the victims inhabit or move to the rural, remote areas;
   b. The tough geography and harsh topography of the affected areas;
c. The influence of the indigenous customs and traditions that sometimes reversely impact the attainment of objectives, and;

d. The lack of adequate support to attain the objectives.

12. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on measurable improvements in the lives of mine victims including in areas of psychological support and social and economic inclusion and would encourage Sudan to increase efforts to achieve the victim assistance commitments of the Maputo Action Plan by the 2019 Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY TAJIKISTAN

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Tajikistan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Tajikistan had reported 4 mine casualties in 2017 and that between 2015 and 2017 a total of 34 mine casualties had been recorded including 18 men and 16 boys. In total 868 casualties were reported for the period between 1992 and 2017, of which 482 were injured and 367 killed with children making up 30% of this total.

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

3. Tajikistan reported that Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) has conducted assessment of the needs of mine survivors until 31 December 2017, to date more than 98% of accurate and reliable data collected on victims of antipersonnel mines / ERW and needs assessment study data (broken down by sex and age) have been entered into a database.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. Tajikistan reported on results of pre-established objectives and targets, indicating the existence of a plan of action on victim assistance. The Committee concluded that it would welcome an electronic copy of the action plan.

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

5. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan made efforts to integrate victim assistance into broader programmes and policies, by reporting as follows:
   a. In 2017, the Victim Assistance Programme continued its successful integration into government programmes and UNDP programmes, including the "Rule of Law and Access to Justice" programme;
   b. Ministry of Health of Tajikistan has been increasingly taking the lead in implementing victim assistance;
   c. Relevant institutions have been engaged to improve services, such as accessibility of the environment.

6. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updates on these efforts.

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 concluded that Tajikistan was acting upon its commitment under Action 15, by reporting as follows:
a. The National Program for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled for 2017-2020 was approved in 2016;
b. All persons who were injured by mines in 2017 have received the necessary emergency medical assistance;
c. There are 6 boarding houses, 2 rehabilitation centres for disabled children, 40 social service home, 16 service centres for the elderly and disabled, 16 day centres residence for disabled children and 4 medical sanatoria for veterans of war, labour and persons with disabilities providing services to people with disabilities, including those affected by mine;
d. State unitary enterprise, Prosthetic-orthopaedic plant of the city Dushanbe, provides prostheses, special orthopaedic shoes, belts, corsets, walking stick, crutches, wheelchairs and other necessary auxiliary means to all persons in need;
e. The number of people in need of prosthetic and orthopaedic products is increasing. On average 20 victims of mines receive prosthetic and orthopaedic services annually, with 18 mine survivors (16 men and 2 boys) having received prosthesis in 2017;
f. In 2017, 20 wheelchairs were purchased to be provided to mine victims;
g. In 2017 a two-week summer camp rehabilitation workshop was organized for 69 mine / ERW victims, where they were able to rest, receive treatment and psychological rehabilitation, and also participate in seminars and trainings organized by an international NGO "Polus Centre" and Tajik psychologists;
h. In 2017, 265 mine / ERW victims and other persons with disabilities were provided preferential microcredits with the low-interest rate (1% per month) with the purpose of generating income and increasing opportunities for self-employment in Rasht Valley.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. Tajikistan reported on its continued efforts to coordinate the victim assistance programme with the Ministry of Health taking the lead according to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Protocol V of the CCW. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts for local capacity building in relation to the implementation of victim assistance.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

9. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan is acting upon its commitments under action 16 by reporting that mine victims and other persons with disabilities have been included in the Technical Working Group on Victim Assistance. In 2017, the Working Group with the support of the UNDP organized four meetings on an integrated approach to assistance of people affected by mines / ERW and the rights of persons with disabilities in four regional centres, 39 out of 119 participants were represented by mine / ERW victims.

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

10. The Committee concluded that Tajikistan was acting upon its commitments under Actions 15 and 17, by reporting as follows:

a. 43 local architects and designers were trained and gained knowledge in the field of standards and accessible environment in 2016;
b. Tajikistan’s Scientific Research Institute of Medico-Social Expertise and rehabilitation of disabled people (NIIEVTIN) made efforts in improving standards for accessible toilets and other accessibility needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors;
c. More than 2,600 persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, have benefited from improved physical access to medical services.
Measurable improvements, challenges and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)

11. Tajikistan reported measurable improvements as well as challenges in the availability of resources for the implementation of victim assistance with 700 persons on the waiting list to receive mobility aids. The Committee encourages Tajikistan to increase efforts to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention in 2019.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THAILAND

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Thailand of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. Thailand provided an update on the number of new mine victims with five victims registered in 2017, all men that were injured, and that that the decrease in casualties (versus 9 in 2016) is the result of Mine Risk Education programs in raising awareness of landmines and promoting behavioural change through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities.

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

3. Thailand reported assessing needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors in areas of medical care, social and economic inclusion, rehabilitation, psychological support, capacity building, awareness raising and laws and policies, and welcomes information on any assessments that were conducted in 2017 to identify gaps in mainstreaming and/or specialised services.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee concluded that Thailand is acting upon its commitments under Action 13, by outlining comprehensive objectives medical care, social and economic inclusion, rehabilitation, psychological support, capacity building, awareness raising and laws and policies and through developing or updating of the following plan of actions:

   a. National Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2017 – 2021);
   b. Strategic Plan on Empowerment of Women with Disabilities (2017 – 2021);
   c. Provincial Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and;
   d. Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities.

5. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on timeframes of the reported objectives and plans along with electronic copies of the action plans.

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

6. The Committee concluded that Thailand was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 14, in areas of social and economic inclusion by amending the Regulation on Revenue Codes, approval of persons with disabilities who are registered for disability identification cards, as being eligible to receive disability allowance upon request and aiming for an integrated technology to enhance the level of services to persons with disabilities.
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 concluded that Thailand was implementing commitments outlined under Action 15, by increasing or maintaining targeted resources, through the followings:

a. Increasing monthly disability allowance from the rate of 14 USD to 27 USD;
b. Allocating budgets for personal assistants (1.44 million USD since 2011 to present), for housing modification (3.89 million USD since 2011 to present), for sign language interpreters (approximately 128,800 USD per year), and for assistive devices, tri-cycle (approximately 364,000 USD per year);
c. Putting measures in place to respond to emergency situation and casualties during mine clearance operations;
d. Promoting Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services for all persons with disabilities, including in 15 hospitals and four regions of the country;
e. Providing interest-free loans to individuals at an amount of up to 1,922 USD, and to groups at an amount of up to 3,840 USD for 5 years;
f. Providing aid and rehabilitation allowances at an amount of up to 96 USD, three times on an annual basis;
g. Providing psychological support to at least 500 persons with disabilities to increase their participation in community activities and also to change attitudes of people in the community, with 152 Community Learning Centres operating in 76 provinces of the country;
h. Advancing livelihoods of persons with disability through (1) vocational training program, welfare program, running disability services centres, having a comprehensive program on financial support in place to advance the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities, holding seminars and training on financial management and documentation;
i. Having 7,980 persons with disabilities employed in the government sector and 47,150 persons with disabilities employed in the private sector, and;
j. Allocating approximately 159 million USD for loans for self-employment of persons with disabilities and their caregivers, of which approximately 6.2 million USD allocated for the year 2018.

8. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updated information on these efforts disaggregated by sex and age and preferably with an indication of the number of people who benefited in the reporting period.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. The Committee concluded that Thailand reported on its strong commitment towards enhancing capacities and ensuring inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations, by reporting:

k. The creation of a capacity building centre for persons with disabilities and service providers, allocating financial support equals to 17,333,841 USD in support of the work of disability stakeholders and making efforts for evaluation and follow-up of programs to ensure the quality of services provided to the persons with disabilities, and;
l. The continued support provided by the general and provincial centres for persons with disabilities with the mandate to advance disability-related policies and services including coordination and collaborations among stakeholders, and between government and persons with disabilities.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)
10. Thailand reported on the inclusion and participation of mine victims, including at decision-making level to design policies, plans and projects on disability issues, in collaboration with non-governmental agencies including disabled people’s organizations, supported by a number of policies and actions in place.

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

11. Thailand reported awareness-raising activities among government agencies and private companies to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and expanding services to rural areas through community-based rehabilitation activities. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on any efforts that led the removal of barriers, such as physical barriers.

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

12. The Committee concluded that Thailand was acting upon aspects of requirements of Action 18, by reporting measurable improvements in its implementation mechanisms addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors, and would welcome additional information on remaining challenges and priorities in relation to achieving the Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, in the lead up to next year’s Review Conference.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY UGANDA

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Uganda of its information on victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Uganda had reported no mine casualties in 2017. Uganda reported an estimated of about 2,000 landmine survivors in the country. The Committee welcomes additional information on mine victims, disaggregated by gender and age.

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

3. The Committee observed that Uganda had not reported on its efforts to assess needs, the availability and gaps in services, and encourages Uganda to provide an update in this regard.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee observed that Uganda had reported on its previous Comprehensive Plan on Landmine Victim Assistance (2008-2012) and the benefits the plan brought to the system. Uganda also reported that it has reaffirmed commitments to disability inclusion at the First World Disability Summit which took place in the United Kingdom in July 2018, including to review its 2006 National Policy on Disability and to develop a national plan of action. The Committee encourages the Government of Uganda to increase efforts in developing time-bound and measurable objectives on victim assistance.

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

5. The Committee observed that Uganda reported on enhancements in the integration of disability rights and victim assistance into broader frameworks, as follows:

a. Some mainstream programmes such as the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) are significantly benefitting persons with disabilities. For example, the Expanding Social Protection-(ESPII) programme data shows a total of 111,132 older persons with disabilities (41% of whom have severe disabilities) are benefitting from the regular cash transfers to senior citizens. Some of the landmine affected districts that have benefited from this program include Kasese, Gulu, Yumbe, Koboko, Agago, and Pader.

b. Persons with disabilities constitute 7.6% and 2.8% of total beneficiaries under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Youth Livelihoods Programme (YLP) respectively. These two programmes are covering the entire country.

c. There is an effort to continue tackling other issues affecting all Persons with Disabilities such as stigma and discrimination in all mainstream community development interventions by Government and civil society. These among others include: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights awareness; Universal Primary Education; Universal Secondary Education, Technical and Skills training through Government training institutions.
6. The Committee welcomes additional information including on budgets allocated for the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks in Uganda.

**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 Uganda is acting upon its commitments contained under Action 15, by reporting the followings:

   d. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, through its Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme address the social and economic needs of persons with disabilities across the country, with Government funding available in 26 districts currently;

   e. 156 persons with disabilities including 30 landmine survivors in Kasese district received assistive devices, plus 15 landmine survivors were referred to rehabilitation and other medical services;

   f. An average of 9,280 persons, including landmine survivors annually, benefit from the Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities Programme which provides seed capital for income generating activities to persons with disabilities or their caregivers. This programme is being implemented across the country, including in districts that were affected by landmines.

8. The Committee welcomes additional information, disaggregated by sex and age, concerning efforts made in relation to the implementation of Action 15.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

9. The Committee observed that Uganda had reported that there are four Disability Rehabilitation Institutions in central, western and northern regions of the country, and they train between 180 and 200 youth with disabilities in employable skills every year. Uganda also reported that the Government’s universities and other tertiary institutions have a quota system, where 64 persons with disabilities are fully sponsored by Government every academic year. The Committee welcomes information on efforts to enhance coordination among actors involved in victim assistance and disabilities in the country.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

10. The Committee observed that Uganda had not reported on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations, and encourages submission of information in this regard.

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

11. The Committee observed that Uganda had reported activities such as Community Based Rehabilitation and small grants provided to persons with disabilities including landmine survivors at community levels, including in places that were affected by landmines. The Committee welcomes more information with regards other targeted efforts to remove barriers including physical and attitudinal barriers facing persons with disabilities and mine victims, as well as on efforts to raise awareness on their rights and needs.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**
12. The Committee observed that Uganda had reported progress in the integration of victim assistance into broader social development programmes and the report indicated that due to limits in financing and in the mechanisms for delivery, the programmes that specifically target persons with disabilities remain limited both in scope and scale. The Committee encourages the government of Uganda to increase efforts to identify remaining challenges in victim assistance and to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan by the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.
CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE ON THE INFORMATION
SUBMITTED BY ZIMBABWE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Zimbabwe of its Article 7 report for the calendar
year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the
information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions.

Mine Casualties

2. Zimbabwe did not report on the status of new casualties by anti-personnel mines in areas under
its jurisdiction or control. The Committee welcomes information in this regard, disaggregated by
sex and age.

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

3. Zimbabwe reported on aspects of Action 12 commitments, by elaborating the existence of a
considerable number of mine victims scattered around the country in mine-affected areas, and
that the country is in the process of collecting data and statistics specifically on those affected
by landmines through the assistance of Demining Partners. In addition, Zimbabwe indicated the
followings:

   a. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in which victim assistance lies, collects data on all
      people living with disabilities, without categorising the cause of their disabilities. This also is
      the case on the provision of basic services including medical care, physical rehabilitation,
      economic and social inclusion in which all those with disabilities are treated alike;
   b. While the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for the social welfare of all
      people living with disabilities, including mine victims, limitations in funding hinder the full
      implementation of rehabilitation services;
   c. ZIMAC has been making efforts to assist mine victims including by identifying mine victims in
      remote areas and having them included in the Social Welfare database, and;
   d. Plans are in place to conduct a countrywide mine victim survey as soon as funding was
      secured.

4. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on efforts undertaken
   by ZIMAC in supporting mine victims in remote areas, as well as the types of assistance victims,
   receive through the Social Welfare database, in a sex- and age-disaggregated manner.

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)

5. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe reported on challenges the country face in relation to
access to specialized rehabilitation, medical care and assistive products, as follows:

   a. Individuals who suffer traumatic lower limb injuries from causes such as anti-personnel
      mines/ERW and motor vehicle accidents receive medical treatment from nearest local
district medical hospitals or clinics. When individuals’ conditions are beyond the capability of
local health care services, a long and costly travel to provincial or national health care centres
is normally required;
b. There are no rehabilitation centres, specialist doctors, prosthetics and physical therapists in some areas of Zimbabwe;

c. Many individuals, who come from rural areas, including landmine victims, either cannot afford to travel to access special services or cannot spend long periods away from their families or means of income, and opt to stay home using traditional means of treatment, and;

d. HALO Trust continues to assist mine victims by providing prosthetic limbs. In 2017, they assisted 17 identified mine victims.

6. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to ensure new victims, including those in critical conditions in mine-affected areas, have access to appropriate first aid and medical care, and also the Committee would welcome information on efforts to increase the availability of and access to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by sex and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

7. Zimbabwe reported that interaction between the ZIMAC and other relevant State entities, like the Ministry of Health, has been limited, and that National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMAAZ) was making efforts to improve coordination. ZIMAC continues to strengthen coordination including through a Mine Action Stakeholders Coordinating Meetings held every three months. However, Zimbabwe reported that due to the limitation of funding, coordination has been limited with other state entities responsible for disabilities including the Ministry of Health and Child Care and Public service and Social Welfare. Plans are in place for conducting a landmine victim survey in coordination with demining organisations and other ministries.

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

8. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe had not reported on efforts to implement Action13, Action 14, Action 15, in particular on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims, Action 16 or Action 17 of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome information on these matters.

9. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe, with the exception of information on challenges in accessing services in rural areas, funding, and coordination, had not reported on measurable improvements or on efforts to identify the remaining challenges and priorities in assisting mine victims in the lead up to the upcoming Review Conference, and it encourages Zimbabwe to report on these matters.