

**Status of Victim Assistance
in the Context of the
AP Mine Ban Convention
in the 26 Relevant States Parties**

2005 – 2008

presented to the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties

by

**Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance
and Socio-Economic Reintegration**

Cambodia and New Zealand

**Geneva, Switzerland
28 November 2008**

Status of Victim Assistance in the Context of the AP Mine Ban Convention in the 26 Relevant States Parties 2005 – 2008

Introduction:

The First Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (AP Mine Ban Convention), also known as the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, from 29 November to 3 December 2004, reminded the international community that “[t]he very purpose of the Convention is to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by antipersonnel mines.”¹ At the First Review Conference, 24 States Parties² indicated that they had ultimate responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen. The Final Report of the First Review Conference stated that these States Parties have “the greatest responsibility to act, but also the greatest needs and expectations for assistance” in providing adequate services for their care, rehabilitation and reintegration.³ As a result, these States Parties have become “a more focused challenge” for States Parties in the period up to the Second Review Conference in 2009.⁴ In 2008, two other States Parties – Iraq and Jordan – reported that they too had a responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors.

The First Review Conference provided an opportunity to further raise awareness on the rights and needs of mine victims, and to identify the key challenges to be addressed to fulfill the promise to mine survivors that the Convention implied. A set of understandings were formally agreed to by the States Parties. These understandings included clarity regarding what was meant by a landmine victim, with landmine victims understood to be “those who either individually or collectively have suffered physical or psychological injury, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights through acts or omissions related to mine utilization.”⁵ That is, a broad approach to what is considered a landmine victim was accepted that includes the individual, their family, and their community, but with a clear understanding that the majority of attention must be focused on providing assistance to those individuals directly impacted by mines.⁶

This issue called victim assistance was also clarified, with the States Parties agreeing that it included work in the following six thematic areas:

- Understanding the extent of the challenges faced (data collection);
- Emergency and continuing medical care;
- Physical rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, prosthetics and assistive devices;

¹ *Review of the operation of the status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, (Part II of the Final Report of the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Nairobi, 29 November – 3 December 2004, APLC/CONF/2004/5, 9 February 2005), paragraph 1.

² See *Review of the operation of the status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, paragraph 85. Ethiopia’s ratification of AP Mine Ban Convention on 17 December 2004 increased the number to 24.

³ *Ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines: Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009*, (Part III of the Final Report), paragraph 5.

⁴ *Review of the operation of the status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, paragraph 86.

⁵ *Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction 1999-2004*, paragraph 64.

⁶ *Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction 1999-2004*, paragraph 64.

- Psychological support and social reintegration;
- Economic reintegration; and,
- The establishment, enforcement and implementation of relevant laws and public policies.⁷

States Parties adopted a clear understanding of principles to guide their victim assistance efforts. Four principles are particularly important:

- victim assistance “does not require the development of new fields or disciplines but rather calls for ensuring that existing health care and social service systems, rehabilitation programmes and legislative and policy frameworks are adequate to meet the needs of all citizens – including landmine victims;”
- “...the call to assist landmine victims should not lead to victim assistance efforts being undertaken in such a manner as to exclude any person injured or disabled in another manner;”
- “assistance to landmine victims should be viewed as a part of a country’s overall public health and social services systems and human rights frameworks;” and,
- “...providing adequate assistance to landmine survivors must be seen in a broader context of development and underdevelopment....”⁸

States Parties also adopted the ambitious *Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009*. With respect to victim assistance, the *Nairobi Action Plan* aims to “enhance the care, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts” through eleven specific action points. The *Nairobi Action Plan* contains the commitments, particularly on the part of those States Parties with the greatest numbers of survivors, to do their utmost to:

- develop or enhance national mine victim data collection capacities;
- establish and enhance health care services needed to respond to the immediate and ongoing medical needs of mine victims;
- increase national physical rehabilitation capacities;
- develop capacities to meet the psychological and social support needs of mine victims;
- actively support the socio-economic reintegration of mine victims;
- ensure that national legal and policy frameworks effectively address the needs and fundamental human rights of mine victims; and,
- ensure that in all victim assistance efforts, emphasis is given to age and gender considerations.

In addition, the *Nairobi Action Plan* contains the commitment of those in a position to do so to provide assistance to States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs, and, the agreement that all States Parties will monitor and promote progress in achieving the victim assistance goals and ensure the effective participation of mine victims in the work of the Convention.⁹

The *Nairobi Action Plan* provided a framework on which to act during the period 2005 to 2009; however, States Parties still lacked a clear appreciation of what should or could be achieved. Nevertheless, it was clear that the ultimate responsibility to improve the quality of life of mine survivors and other people with disabilities lay with the affected State.

In 2005, the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, under the leadership of Nicaragua and Norway, increased its efforts to support concrete progress in meeting the needs of landmine victims before the Second Review Conference in 2009. In early 2005, the Co-Chairs developed a questionnaire, in consultation with key stakeholders, including Landmine Survivors Network, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. This questionnaire was inspired by the Strategic Framework for Planning Integrated Victim Assistance Programmes, which was developed by Switzerland in 1999, and was based on the

⁷ *Review of the operation of the status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, paragraph 69.

⁸ *Review of the operation of the status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction: 1999-2004*, paragraphs 65-67.

⁹ *Ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines: Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009*, paragraph 5.

Guidelines for the Socio-economic Reintegration of Landmine Survivors, which was produced by the World Rehabilitation Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2003.

The main aim of this questionnaire was to encourage the relevant States Parties in question to establish so-called *SMART* objectives:

- Specific objectives which should specify what these States Parties want to achieve.
- Measurable objectives which would enable all to know whether objectives had been met.
- Achievable objectives that with a reasonable amount of effort, and with resources at the disposal of the State Party in question or with resources that could realistically be acquired externally, could be met within the time-frame.
- Relevant objectives that are important to achieve an improvement in the services available and/or the quality of life of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.
- Time-bound objectives which would be achieved by the time of the Second Review Conference.

The questionnaire was also intended to assist the relevant States Parties in articulating plans to achieve their objectives, and, the resources available or needed to implement these plans.

The questionnaire called for responses to four key questions:

- What is the situation in 2005 in each of the six main thematic areas of victim assistance?
- What does the state wish the situation to be in each of the six thematic areas by 2009?
- What are the plans to achieve these objectives in each of the six thematic areas by 2009?; and,
- What means are available or required to implement these plans?

The Co-Chairs sent the questionnaire to the 24 relevant States Parties in March 2005 with the aim that these States Parties would produce objectives that were specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound, or *SMART*, before the November 2005 Sixth Meeting of the States Parties (6MSP) in Zagreb, Croatia. Two regional workshops were organized by the Co-Chairs to allow the relevant States to share experiences and develop their answers to the questionnaire; in the Americas (Managua, Nicaragua, 26-27 April 2005), and in Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 31 May-2 June 2005).¹⁰ The Co-Chairs also pursued a number of country-specific assistance strategies and provided a forum for States Parties to present their initial responses to the questionnaire at the June 2005 meeting of the Standing Committee. In addition, a number of States Parties were assisted by the United Nations and by the Implementation Support Unit of the GICHD in preparing responses to the questionnaire.

In December 2005, the *Zagreb Progress Report* presented to the 6MSP, contained a lengthy annex which summarized the responses made by 22 of the relevant States Parties.¹¹ Consequently, there was a much more solid basis for developing a clearer road map regarding what needed to be done between 2005 and the Second Review Conference and how success pertaining to victim assistance will be measured in 2009. However, the *Zagreb Progress Report* acknowledged that the questionnaire “is not an end-product but rather an initial step in a long-term planning and implementation process.”¹²

The aim of the Co-Chairs in 2005 was to ensure the successful implementation of the Convention and to facilitate concrete progress in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* and as a consequence achieve measurable progress in addressing the rights and needs of landmine victims before the Second Review Conference in 2009. Subsequent Co-Chairs, Afghanistan and Switzerland in 2006, Austria and Sudan in 2007, and Cambodia and New Zealand in 2008, have sought to continue the work started by Nicaragua and Norway. The logic of the efforts undertaken since the First Review Conference by all

¹⁰ The workshop in the Americas was attended by Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru; and in Africa by Angola, Burundi, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan and Uganda.

¹¹ Burundi and Chad have not yet provided the Co-Chairs with a response to the questionnaire.

¹² *Achieving the Aims of the Nairobi Action Plan: The Zagreb Progress Report*, (Part II of the Final Report of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, APLC/MSP.6/2005/5, 5 April 2006), paragraph 72

Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration was and is based on the following:

- As the ultimate responsibility of meeting the needs of landmine survivors within a particular state rests with that state, no external actor can define for it what can or should be achieved by when and how in meeting the needs of these survivors.
- Others may have the ability to assist in understanding challenges, developing and monitoring the efficacy and implementation of plans. However, real and sustainable progress rests with sovereign states articulating in their own voices their challenges and plans to overcome them.
- Moreover, what can or should be achieved by when and how will be different for each of these relevant States Parties, given their unique characteristics.

While the efforts undertaken by several of the relevant States Parties since 2005 have been impressive, the quality of the responses has been mixed. Some States Parties have not developed objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound; that is SMART. Some States Parties have detailed at length their status but put very little forward in terms of what the desired status would be in 2009. Other States Parties have failed to spell out what is known or not known about their status. Another challenge relates to the conclusion drawn at the First Review Conference that “assistance to landmine victims should be viewed as a part of a country’s overall public health and social services systems and human rights frameworks.” In many instances the preparation of victim assistance objectives did not take broader national plans into consideration.

Since 2005, all Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration have recognized that the best way to assure progress in overcoming these challenges is to work intensively, on a national basis. With assistance from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), a victim assistance specialist has been recruited with funding provided by Australia, Austria, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland.

The ISU assists the Co-Chairs to achieve their aim of ensuring the successful implementation of the Convention in relation to victim assistance by providing or offering some level of support to all relevant States Parties in the form of advice each may wish to consider in improving on their efforts to establish SMART objectives and a national plan. In addition, at the request of relevant States Parties, *process support* is available to advance the State’s inter-ministerial efforts to establish better objectives and develop and implement good plans. *Process support* involves country visits during which one-on-one meetings with officials from relevant ministries take place to raise awareness of the victim assistance issue and to stimulate inter-ministerial coordination. Outreach to relevant international and other organizations also takes place to ensure that their efforts in support of the State Party in question are not being duplicated but rather are both incorporated into and incorporate mine victim assistance efforts. Mine survivors are also consulted. In some countries inter-ministerial workshops bring together all relevant actors to discuss and consolidate improvements on objectives and the development and implementation of plans.

The expected outcome of this activity is an improved capacity in the targeted States Parties to move forward in the process of setting their own specific objectives and plans of action with a tangible improvement in institutional frameworks to address disability issues and in services available to mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

This document provides a summary of progress and an overview of engagement in the process in applying the understandings in relation to victim assistance agreed to at the First Review Conference.

Summary of Progress since the First Review Conference in 2004:

- Since 2005, *process support* visits have been undertaken by the ISU on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration to 24 of the 26 relevant States Parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen.¹³
- Jordan clarified through the Article 5 extension request it submitted in March 2008, that it too has a responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors.
- In July 2008, Iraq clarified through its initial Article 7 transparency report that it also has a responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors.
- In response to Action #39 of the *Nairobi Action Plan* which called on States Parties to ensure an effective contribution in all relevant deliberations by health, rehabilitation and social services professionals, at the June 2005 standing committee meetings, 4 of 23¹⁴ relevant States Parties (17 percent) participating in the meeting included a victim assistance/disability expert in their delegation, increasing to 10 of 21¹⁵ relevant States Parties (48 percent) participating in the May 2006 standing committee meetings, and 18 of 23¹⁶ relevant States Parties (78 percent) participating in the April 2007 meetings. In June 2008, 14 of 24¹⁷ relevant States Parties (58 percent) participating in the meetings included health, rehabilitation, social services or disability professionals in their delegations.
- At the April 2007 and June 2008 standing committee meetings and the 8MSP and 9MSP, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration organized parallel programmes for victim assistance experts. The programmes aimed to increase the knowledge of the expert participants on victim assistance in the context of the Convention, and thematic issues including data collection, emergency medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, economic empowerment, inclusion, accessibility, community based rehabilitation, coordination, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- At the 6MSP in November 2005, 11 of 24 relevant States Parties (46 percent) participating in the meeting included a victim assistance expert in their delegation. Twelve of the relevant States Parties made an intervention during the session “Assisting the victims” at the 6MSP.
- At the 7MSP in September 2006, 17 of 23¹⁸ relevant States Parties (74 percent) participating in the meeting included a victim assistance expert in their delegation. On 19-20 September 2006, all 23 States Parties made an intervention during the session “Assisting the victims” at the 7MSP, the majority of which outlined their progress in efforts to meet the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* in relation to victim assistance.
- At the 8MSP in November 2007, 18 of 23¹⁹ relevant States Parties (78 percent) participating in the meeting included a victim assistance expert in their delegation. On 21 November 2007, 22 relevant States Parties made an intervention or provided a written statement during the session on “Assisting the victims.”

¹³ Eritrea and Iraq have not requested a *process support* visit.

¹⁴ Senegal did not participate in the intersessionals.

¹⁵ Burundi, Eritrea and Senegal did not participate in the intersessionals.

¹⁶ Eritrea did not participate in the intersessionals.

¹⁷ Yemen did not participate in the intersessionals. Visa problems prevented the participation of some experts.

¹⁸ Eritrea did not participate in the 7MSP.

¹⁹ Eritrea did not participate in the 8MSP.

- At the 9MSP in November 2008, 21 of 25²⁰ relevant States Parties (84 percent) participating in the meeting included a victim assistance expert in their delegation. On 27 and 28 November 2008, 21 relevant States Parties made an intervention during the session on “Assisting the victims” to report on their efforts to meet the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* in relation to victim assistance.
- In 2006, 2007 and 2008, workshops or seminars to discuss victim assistance in the context of the AP Mine Ban Convention and/or to develop a plan of action to meet the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* were convened in at least 11 relevant States Parties: Afghanistan, Angola, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Uganda.
- Since the 6MSP, at least 15 relevant States Parties have revised and/or added objectives: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Uganda.
- Since the 6MSP, at least 11 relevant States Parties have developed, or have initiated an inter-ministerial process to develop and/or implement, a comprehensive plan of action to meet their objectives: Afghanistan, Angola, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Uganda.
- Since the 6MSP, at least 22 relevant States Parties report progress towards the achievement of some of their objectives: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen.
- Since the 6MSP, at least five relevant States Parties has reviewed its progress in implementing its plan of action and have developed, or are in the process of developing, revised objectives and plan of action: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Tajikistan and Uganda.
- Since the 8MSP, at least two relevant States Parties have developed a mechanism to monitor and assess progress in implementing their plan of action: Afghanistan and Uganda.
- Since the 8MSP, the Co-Chairs sought to overcome the challenge of establishing clear measures and indicators of progress in the pursuit of the victim assistance aim of the Convention. To assist the States Parties in the period leading up to the Second Review Conference, a set of indicators were developed which could be used in a variety of ways to indicate relative degrees of progress in fulfilling key aims in relation to victim assistance. The indicators are based on relevant actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan*. Such indicators will serve as a useful complement to States Parties’ own objectives to assess progress in assisting the victims. The Co-Chairs will also work with relevant States Parties to draft a report on the status of victim assistance in their respective State for presentation to the Second Review Conference. These reports will provide greater clarity on efforts to achieve the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* at the national level.
- Since the First Review Conference, efforts have been made to strengthen the normative framework that protects and ensures respect for the rights of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors through the participation by many States and interested organizations in the drafting of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. On 13 December 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted. The CRPD opened for signature on 30 March 2007, and entered into force on 3 May 2008. The CRPD strengthens the normative framework that protects and ensures respect for the rights of persons

²⁰ Eritrea did not participate in the 9MSP.

with disabilities including landmine survivors. It has the potential to promote a more systematic and sustainable approach to victim assistance in the context of the AP Mine Ban Convention by bringing “victim assistance” into the broader context of policy and planning for persons with disabilities more generally. As of 24 November 2008, 113 of the 136 State signatories to the CRPD are States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention, including 16 of the 26 States Parties reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors: Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen. The Optional Protocol, which provides individuals the right to complain before an international body should redress not be found at the national level, has been signed by 78 States, including 7 of the 26 relevant States Parties: Burundi, Cambodia, Croatia, Peru, Senegal, Uganda, and Yemen. Forty-one (41) States have ratified the CRPD, including Croatia, El Salvador, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Thailand, and Uganda. In November 2008, Jordan was elected to serve on the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the body responsible for monitoring implementation of the CRPD.

- The Convention’s Documentation Centre now includes a quantity of victim assistance-related resources.
- The ISU produced two documents, *A Guide to Understanding Victim Assistance in the Context of the AP Mine Ban Convention* and *Victim Assistance in the Context of the AP Mine Ban Convention: Checklist*, to assist affected States in the development of SMART objectives and a national plan of action. These documents are available in English, French and Spanish.

Engagement in the process of applying the understandings in relation to victim assistance agreed to at the First Review Conference since 2005:

Afghanistan

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Afghanistan presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the rights and needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

At the 6MSP, Afghanistan, together with Switzerland, assumed the role of Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration. In this capacity, Afghanistan’s stated aim was to lead by example and develop a plan of action to meet the needs of landmine victims and other people with disabilities.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan launched a process to revise the information presented in the *Zagreb Progress Report* and increase the level of inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation within the disability sector to develop a national plan of action that would assist mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

On 6-8 August 2006, the first National Landmine Victim Assistance Workshop in Afghanistan was convened and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul to review, revise and enhance the initial responses to the Victim Assistance questionnaire.

In September 2006, Afghanistan presented its plan of action and an update on progress in achieving its victim assistance objectives to the 7MSP.

On 23-25 October 2007, the Second National Victim Assistance-Disability Workshop in Afghanistan was convened and hosted by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) in Kabul to review, revise and enhance the plan of action developed at the First National Victim Assistance Workshop in 2006.

The revised plan of action, the Afghanistan National Disability Action Plan (ANDAP), was presented to the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration in May 2008.

In 2008, a monitoring mechanism was developed to assess progress in implementing the ANDAP and achieving the objectives.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) has responsibility for disability issues in Afghanistan. However, the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (MACA) has played a key role in supporting progress in victim assistance in Afghanistan. Through the MACA,

national advisors have been seconded to relevant ministries to support inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral coordination, raise awareness and promote implementation of the ANDAP. The MACA is working closely with MoLSAMD in the process of transferring full responsibility for victim assistance activities/oversight to government ownership.

Six *process support* visits have been undertaken – three in 2006, one in 2007 and two in 2008.

Afghanistan included victim assistance/disability experts on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, and 6MSP, 7MSP and 9MSP; four were Deputy Ministers and two were mine survivors.

Afghanistan reported on progress and challenges in achieving its objectives and the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* in all intersessional meetings and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Afghanistan used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Albania

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Albania presented its SMART objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors in the mine-affected region as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

In 2006, Albania revised its response to the Victim Assistance questionnaire to include strengthened objectives, a plan of action to achieve the objectives, and information on objectives already achieved in 2005/2006. The plan of action was presented to the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration in May 2006.

In April 2007, a Victim Assistance Workshop was held in Tirana to review the existing plan of action for mine victim assistance that had been developed to meet the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) has been instrumental in advancing the victim assistance issue in Albania. AMAE works in close collaboration with the relevant ministries and activities are aimed at building the national capacities to ensure sustainability of actions.

Two *process support* visits have been undertaken – one in 2006 and one in 2007.

Albania included a victim assistance expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and the 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Albania reported on progress and challenges in achieving its objectives and the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* in all intersessional meetings since 2005 and all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Albania used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Angola

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Angola presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Inter-sectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) has taken the lead role in coordinating victim assistance activities in Angola.

On 26-27 September 2006, the National Workshop on Laws and Policies of Protection of Disabled People and Landmine Victims aimed to identify ways to improve the implementation of laws and policies and to create a three-year plan of action between CNIDAH and partners for mine victim assistance. The workshop also evaluated the response to recommendations from a workshop held in March 2005.

A victim assistance workshop in late 2007 brought together all relevant ministries and other key actors in the disability sector. The workshop focused on developing a five-year national plan of action for victim assistance.

One *process support* visit was undertaken in 2007.

Angola included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2005, 2006 and 2007, and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Angola reported on progress and challenges in achieving its objectives and the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, in all intersessional meetings since 2005 and Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Angola used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005 and 2006.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, BiH presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The BiH Landmine Victim Assistance strategy 2005-2009 was approved by the Council of Ministers in December 2004. Under the strategy, the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) was mandated by the Council of Ministers with the responsibility to coordinate victim assistance activities throughout the country.

In February 2007, the first National Mine Victim Assistance Workshop in BiH was convened and hosted by the Ministry of Health of Federation of BiH, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Republika Srpska, and BHMIC to review, revise and enhance the initial responses to the Victim Assistance questionnaire. In November 2007, a follow-up workshop was convened.

In November 2008, the Victim Assistance Strategic Plan for 2009-2019 was elaborated at a workshop that brought together all key stakeholders.

Three *process support* visits have been undertaken – one in 2006, two in 2007, and one in 2008.

BiH included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007, and the 6MSP, 7MSP and 9MSP.

BiH reported on progress and challenges in achieving its objectives and the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2007 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

BiH used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Burundi

Burundi participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Burundi did not present its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2008.

Burundi included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007 and 2008, and the 7MSP, 8MSP, and 9MSP.

Burundi reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2005, 2007 and 2008 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Burundi used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, and 2008.

Cambodia

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Cambodia presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) was mandated with responsibility for the coordination and monitoring of victim assistance in Cambodia. However, responsibility for victim assistance was delegated by sub-decree to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and the Disability Action Council (DAC).

In December 2006, a Landmine Victim Assistance Steering Committee (LVASC) was established to develop a Strategic Plan to meet the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*. The LVASC includes representatives of all relevant ministries and other key stakeholders.

In July 2007, a consultative process was started to develop a national plan of action

At the 8MSP, Cambodia, together with New Zealand, assumed the role of Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

In November 2008, the National Plan of Action for Assistance to Persons with Disability, including Landmine/ERW Survivors for 2008-2011 was adopted by the LVASC.

Four *process support* visits have been undertaken – two in 2007 and two in 2008.

Cambodia included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2005, 2007 and 2008, and the 7MSP, 8MSP, and 9MSP.

Cambodia reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2005, 2007 and 2008 and all Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Cambodia used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Chad

Chad did not participate in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Chad did not present its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The focal point for victim assistance in Chad is the Haut Commissariat National de Déminage (HCND) and in particular the Centre National de Déminage (CND). CND has a Directorate for Sensitisation and Victim Assistance.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2008.

Chad included a victim assistance focal point on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006 and 2008, and the 7MSP and 9MSP.

Chad reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at all the intersessional meetings since 2006 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Chad used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Colombia

Colombia participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in the Americas, in Managua on 26-27 April 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Colombia presented limited objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

Victim assistance activities are coordinated through the Presidential Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines.

In 2008, the “Long Term Policy related to the Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Colombia for 2009-2019” was developed. It includes an objective to provide physical and psychological rehabilitation and socioeconomic inclusion processes.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2007.

Colombia included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and the 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Colombia reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at all the intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Colombia used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Croatia

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Croatia presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

CROMAC has been mandated as coordinator of victim assistance activities in Croatia.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2006.

Croatia included victim assistance/disability experts on its delegation to the 8MSP. Croatia included a mine survivor in its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006 and 2007 and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Croatia reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2005 and 2006 and Meetings of the States Parties in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Croatia used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

DRC participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, DRC presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Ministry of Health is the focal point for victim assistance.

In 2006 and 2007, the DRC revised some of its objectives, including by making objectives more specific and time-bound.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2008.

The DRC included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006, and 2007, and the 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

The DRC reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2006 and 2007 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

The DRC used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

El Salvador

El Salvador participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in the Americas, in Managua on 26-27 April 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, El Salvador presented limited objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Consejo Nacional de Atencion Integral a las Personas con Discapacidad (CONAIPD – National Council for Comprehensive Assistance to Persons with Disabilities) is the focal point for victim assistance in El Salvador.

CONAIPID includes a Sub-Committee on Victim Assistance which meets regularly to discuss progress in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

In June 2007, a National Victim Assistance Workshop launched the process of expanding/updating the victim assistance plan and reviewing objectives.

In June 2008, a meeting of all relevant ministries and other key actors was convened to review progress in implementing El Salvador's plan of action.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2007.

El Salvador included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2005, 2007, and 2008 and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

El Salvador reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* at the intersessional meetings in 2005, 2007 and 2008 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

El Salvador has not used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities.

Eritrea

Eritrea participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Eritrea presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare is responsible for disability issues in Eritrea.

Eritrea has not requested a *process support* visit.

A victim assistance expert from Eritrea has not participated in the intersessional meetings or meetings of the States Parties.

Eritrea reported on its victim assistance activities at the intersessional meetings in 2008.

Eritrea has not used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Ethiopia presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

In November 2006, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) co-hosted a workshop to discuss mine victim assistance in Ethiopia.

In August 2007, a victim assistance-focused round-table was convened by MoLSA to discuss possible next steps in moving the process forward in Ethiopia.

In June 2008, Ethiopia presented a report on the Status of Victim Assistance to the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

Two *process support* visits have been undertaken – one in 2007 and one in 2008.

Ethiopia included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2008 and the 7MSP.

Ethiopia reported on challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, and on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2008 and Meetings of the States Parties in 2006 and 2007.

Ethiopia used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2008.

Guinea Bissau

Guinea-Bissau participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Guinea-Bissau presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The National Mine Action Centre (CAAMI) is the focal point for victim assistance in Guinea Bissau.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2006.

Guinea Bissau included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2008 and the 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP; a survivor since 2007.

Guinea Bissau reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2005, 2006, and 2008 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Guinea Bissau used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

Iraq

In July 2008, Iraq clarified through its initial Article 7 report, that it too has the responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors and became the 26th State Party to receive focused attention within the process implemented by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

The process is underway to identify an appropriate in-country victim assistance/disability expert.

In 2008, Iraq used the voluntary Form J attachment to its initial Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities.

Jordan

In March 2008, Jordan clarified through the Article 5 extension request it submitted, that it too has the responsibility for significant numbers of mine survivors and became the 25th State Party to receive focused attention within the process implemented by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

The National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR), together with its partners, the Royal Medical Services, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the Royal Engineering Corps, the Hashemite Committee for Disabled Soldiers, Jordan Red Crescent, and Landmine Survivors Network-Jordan (LSN), have been engaged on the victim assistance issue since 2004.

Jordan's National Mine Action Plan 2005-2009 included victim assistance-related objectives.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2008.

Jordan included a victim assistance/disability expert in its delegation to the 9MSP.

Jordan reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2008 and Meeting of the States Parties in 2008.

Mozambique

Mozambique participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Mozambique presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

In October 2006, the National Demining Institute (IND) convened a Victim Assistance roundtable with relevant ministries and other actors.

In-country *process support* visit was provided in 2007.

Mozambique included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Mozambique reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2005 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Mozambique used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Nicaragua

At the First Review Conference, Nicaragua, together with Norway, assumed the role of Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

Nicaragua participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in the Americas, in Managua on 26-27 April 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Nicaragua presented objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2007.

Nicaragua included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007 and the 6MSP and 8MSP.

Nicaragua reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2005, 2006, and 2007 and Meetings of the States Parties in 2006 and 2007.

Nicaragua has not used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities.

Peru

Peru participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in the Americas, in Managua on 26-27 April 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Peru presented objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

A process support visit was undertaken in 2007.

Peru included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and the 6MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Peru reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at all the intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.²¹

Peru used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Senegal

Senegal participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Senegal presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The National Mine Action Centre (Centre National d'Action Antimines au Sénégal – (CNAMS) is the focal point for victim assistance in Senegal.

A process support visit was undertaken in 2008.

Senegal included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007 and 2008 and the 9MSP.

Senegal reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2007 and 2008 and Meetings of the States Parties in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

Senegal used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Serbia

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Serbia presented objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

After the 6MSP Serbia revised some of its objectives.

The Special Hospital for Rehabilitation and Orthopaedics (formerly the Institute for Prosthetics) was delegated by the Ministry of Health as the focal point for mine victim assistance in Serbia.

In 2006 and 2007, Serbia revised some of its objectives.

A process support visit was undertaken in 2006.

Serbia included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006 and 2007 and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

²¹ At the 7MSP the report was drafted by a victim assistance/disability expert who was unable to participate.

Serbia reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at the intersessional meetings in 2006 and 2007 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Serbia has not used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities.

Sudan

Sudan participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Sudan presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*. This information was presented in Annex V of the *Zagreb Progress Report*.

In May 2006, the first national coordination meeting was convened to discuss the victim assistance issue. Two Victim Assistance working groups were established – one in the north chaired by National Mine Action Centre in Khartoum and one in the south chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs in Juba.

At the 7MSP, Sudan, together with Austria, assumed the role of Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

In March 2007, the First National Victim Assistance Workshop was held in Juba to facilitate the development of a victim assistance plan of action. The First National Workshop produced the “National Victim Assistance Strategic Framework” for the period 2007-2011 which was subsequently endorsed by the government.

In August 2007, the Second National Workshop was held in Khartoum to develop the “Victim Assistance National Work Plan” for the period September 2007 – August 2009.

Two *process support* visits were undertaken in 2007.

Sudan included victim assistance/disability experts on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Sudan reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at all the intersessional meetings since 2005 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Sudan used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Tajikistan

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Tajikistan presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

In 2006, two workshops, involving key ministries and other actors, were convened to develop SMARTer objectives and a plan of action for the period 2006-2009. The Victim Assistance Plan of Action was approved on 27 July 2006 by the government’s Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law. An inter-agency coordination group, representing key ministries and other actors has been established.

In April 2008, a two-day workshop was organised by the TMAC in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population and the Ministry of Health to revise the 2006 victim assistance plan of action and assess progress made.

Two *process support* visits have been undertaken – one in 2006 and one in 2008.

Tajikistan included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007 and 2008 and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP.

Tajikistan reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* at all the intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Tajikistan used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Thailand

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Thailand presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

Thailand adopted its Master Plan for Mine Victim Assistance 2007-2011 on 26 February 2007. The Master Plan takes into account Thailand's extensive institutional and legal frameworks to address disability issues and assigns responsibility for implementation to relevant ministries/agencies.

The National Committee on Humanitarian Mine Action, which is chaired by the Prime Minister, established a Sub-Committee to coordinate the victim assistance issue and ensure progress in implementing the Master Plan.

At the 9MSP, Thailand, together with Belgium, assumed the role of Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration.

Two *process support* visits have been undertaken – one in 2007 and one 2008.

Thailand included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007 and the 8MSP. Three experts participated in the 9MSP.

Thailand reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, or on its victim assistance activities more generally, at all the intersessional meetings since 2005 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2006.

Thailand used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Uganda

Uganda participated in the workshop on advancing landmine victim assistance in Africa, in Nairobi on 31 May–2 June 2005.

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Uganda presented its SMART objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

In August 2007, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health and Office of the Prime Minister co-hosted the Comprehensive Planning Workshop on Victim Assistance.

The outcome of the workshop was the “Uganda Comprehensive Plan of Action to address the rights and needs of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities for the period 2008-2012.”

In 2008, a monitoring mechanism was developed to assess progress in implementing the Comprehensive Plan and achieving the objectives.

Two *process support* visits have been undertaken – one in 2007 and one in 2008.

Uganda included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and the 6MSP, 7MSP, 8MSP and 9MSP; a Minister of State for Elderly and Disability Affairs participated in three meetings.

Uganda reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, and on its victim assistance activities more generally, at all the intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Uganda has not used the voluntary Form J attachment to its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities.

Yemen

In November/December 2005 at the 6MSP in Zagreb, Yemen presented its objectives for the period 2005-2009 to address the needs of mine survivors as part of its commitment to the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

The Yemen Mine Action Centre coordinates victim assistance activities.

A *process support* visit was undertaken in 2006.

Yemen included a victim assistance/disability expert on its delegation to the intersessionals in 2007 and the 8MSP and 9MSP.

Yemen reported on progress and challenges in achieving the aims of the *Nairobi Action Plan* at the intersessional meetings in 2005, 2006, and 2007 and at all Meetings of the States Parties since 2005.

Yemen used the Form I of its annual Article 7 report to provide details on victim assistance activities in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.