



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME 2001-2002

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION**

**May 27 – 28, 2002
Summary Report**

Introduction

The Standing Committee explored how best it could contribute to progress and live up to its mandate in identifying practical means to assist States Parties in meeting their obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention in view of measuring progress that can be made by 2004 and beyond.

Overview of Status of Implementation:

Landmine Monitor and Handicap International provided global and regional overviews on the status implementation, trends and methodology used to measure progress. Landmine Monitor also reported on the positive increase in submission on Form J of Article 7 by States Parties, in particular from mine affected States Parties. The need for more comprehensive data was again raised. To meet this need Landmine Monitor referred to the questionnaire prepared and distributed to all participants in advance of the meeting as an important transparency tool. Participants were encouraged to respond the questionnaire, which is available on the GICHD web site.

UNMAS informed participants of the first findings of a consultative process to identify new opportunities for the Standing Committee, and outlined the way toward the completion of the process. Although it is too early to identify the priorities, the trend seems to indicate that States Parties and experts have identified the following four items as desired areas of focus for the Standing Committee: national planning by States Parties; prosthetics and orthotics; emergency medical care; and, economic reintegration. The Standing Committee urged States Parties to provide input into the process in order for the results to truly reflect the intentions of the group.

Update on implementation plans and progress -- prosthetics and orthotics:

Building on the success of the regional Southeast Asia victim assistance meetings held last year, Thailand in cooperation with the ICBL outlined the main areas of progress and challenges posed to the development of prosthetic and orthotic programs in Thailand.

Colombia demonstrated that despite challenging situations within its country, it is possible to provide holistic rehabilitation services to survivors and to assist them in their reintegration into their communities. Extensive data collected by CIREC has permitted it to develop programs and technology that are appropriate for the needs of mine survivors, in particular needs that relate directly to the services of prosthetics and orthotics.

Update on implementation plans and progress -- psychosocial rehabilitation:

A report on the LSN trauma survey reiterated the importance of treating simultaneously both physical and psychological needs of mine survivors and their families and communities. Matters such as peer support were highlighted.

Croatia reminded participants that rehabilitation of survivors cannot be complete without addressing the psychosocial needs of the survivors and their families. The regional rehabilitation center spearheaded by Croatia addresses the needs of both children who have suffered mine accidents as well

the children living with mine survivors. The recreational workshops held at the centre allow children to overcome trauma with the aid of music and sports.

Update on implementation plans and progress -- human rights of persons with disabilities: the economic reintegration of persons with disabilities

Rehabilitation experts and survivors from Uganda, Ecuador and Nicaragua voiced as a main priority the issue of economic reintegration and emphasized that gainful employment is a basic fundamental human right and is key to complete reintegration.

Update on assistance and cooperation:

Donors were given an opportunity to update the Standing Committee on their plans and priorities for programming in victim assistance. Norway and Switzerland elaborated on their current policies. Participants called on donors to provide further information on these policies in future meetings.

An assessment of priority areas in meeting the needs of landmine survivors:

The Committee was enlightened by the participation of the “Raising the Voices” participants from Africa, who eloquently outlined the priorities of their group and those of past participants. Priorities such as accessibility to medical and rehabilitation services, the importance of training and literacy and economic reintegration were outlined as being the most important to them.

An opportunity for interventions on other matters:

Cambodia and Honduras provided participants with a general overview of their current national victim assistance programs.

Prepared by Co-Chairs (Canada and Honduras) and Co-Rapporteurs (France and Colombia)