



BACKGROUND DOCUMENT #3

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATES PARTIES THAT HAVE REPORTED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF LANDMINE SURVIVORS

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration May 26 / 29, 2009

Background:

The *Geneva Progress Report 2007-2008* recorded that “since the 8MSP, greater emphasis continued to be placed on fulfilling responsibilities to landmine victims by the States Parties that have indicated that they hold ultimate responsibility for significant numbers – hundreds or thousands – of landmine survivors.” The *Geneva Progress Report* furthermore noted that “the efforts of these 26 States Parties, with the support of others, continued to be guided by the clear framework regarding victim assistance in the context of the Convention. This framework was agreed to at the First Review Conference and includes the following core principles:

- (i) “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;”
- (ii) 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;”
- (iii) “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,
- (iv) “providing adequate assistance to landmine survivors must be seen in a broader context of development and underdevelopment.”

The meeting of the Standing Committee is the last opportunity prior to the Second Review Conference for the States Parties as a whole to have an exchange on the status of efforts to apply the victim assistance conclusions that were adopted at the First Review Conference. To this end, the Co-Chairs invite the 26 States Parties that have reported the responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors to actively participate in the work of the Standing Committee by making brief presentations (i.e., approximately 8 minutes) that address the questions below. In addition, these States Parties are encouraged to make available for distribution copies of working drafts of comprehensive national updates on the status of victim assistance within their countries.

Questions:

1. *What is the most significant progress your State has made since 2004 in applying the conclusions on victim assistance adopted at the First Review Conference?*
2. *What are the most significant remaining challenges?*
3. *How does your State intend to address its challenges during the period 2010 to 2014? What are your State's priorities?*