



BRIDGES BETWEEN WORLDS | THE MAPUTO EDITION

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2014 | 14:00 TO 17:00

MAPUTO INDY CONGRESS HOTEL | MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

The purpose of *Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo Edition* is to continue to advance the international community's understanding regarding the place of assistance to victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war in broader contexts. It is intended to build upon the global conference entitled *Bridges between Worlds*, which was hosted by Colombia on 3-4 April 2014 in Medellín with the assistance of the Implementation Support Unit and with financial support provided by both Colombia and the European Union.

The States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention have agreed that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to human rights, disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction. Assisting landmine victims is a specific promise made through the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention but victim assistance is not as world unto itself. Rather, it is part of – or should be part of – other worlds.

Fifteen years after the entry-into-force of the Convention – and on the occasion of the Convention's third five-year review – it is timely to ask some fundamental questions about the bridges between the world of landmines and broader domains such as disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.

- What efforts have been made to build bridges to date and what have been the outcomes of these efforts?
- What practical steps can be taken to further build and strengthen bridges between worlds?
- How can we ensure that, when bridges are built, they truly enhance rather than overlook the advancement of the full and effective participation of mine victims in their societies on an equal basis with others?

The April 2014 *Bridges between Worlds* conference made major headway towards addressing these questions. The event was the largest ever interaction between actors primarily involved in conventional weapons instruments and those from other domains, particularly those concerned about the rights of persons with disabilities. The conference, while convened to explore the bridges between these worlds, actually concluded with the understanding that there is, in fact, only one world – a world with physical, attitudinal and other barriers preventing the full participation of women, girls, boys and men living with a disability, including landmine survivors, in all spheres of their societies on a basis equal to others.

Bridges between Worlds also highlighted that individuals, organizations and States concerned about the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of landmine survivors largely share the same agenda as those concerned about the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of persons with disability

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

generally, as well as those concerned about individuals injured and living with disabilities from other causes, such as gun violence. It was well understood that more can be done for all concerned individuals and their family members when all actors who share such an agenda work together.

Bridges between Worlds in Medellin was just the beginning. On 22 May, the Implementation Support Unit, again with the financial assistance of the European Union and thanks to the initiative of Austria and Costa Rica, organized *Bridges between Worlds: the Geneva Edition*. *Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo Edition* is intended give particular consideration regarding how, following the Third Review Conference, various actors may continue to strengthen bridges between the Convention's promise to mine victims and survivors and broader human rights, disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction domains.

The format for *Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo Edition* will feature the use of moderated conversations. In place of prepared statements, lengthy panel presentations and PowerPoint, panellists representing a variety of perspectives will engage in a conversation between one another and with the audience. *Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo Edition* will feature two moderated conversations, each of which will last for approximately 75 minutes:

- The first conversation aims to increase understanding of, and appreciation for, the linkage between instruments of international humanitarian law that concern themselves with assistance to victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war and broader domains, particularly those that guide efforts to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The second conversation aims to identify specific ways that the international community might move to the next level – strengthening the relationship between those concerned the problems caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war and broader contexts of disability, inclusion, health, human rights, education, employment and development. This conversation will feature panellists exploring, in part, how the decisions that the States Parties have been asked to consider taking at the Maputo Review Conference may help in building stronger bridges.

Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo Edition will be opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, who has a longstanding commitment to ensuring that the Convention fulfils its promise to mine victims and survivors. Joining Princess Astrid in opening the event will be a representative of the European Union, which is sponsoring the event. In addition, H.E. Juan Jose Quintana, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations (Geneva), will provide a summary of the outcomes of the April 2014 *Bridges between Worlds* global conference.

Immediately following the statements by Princess Astrid, the European Union and Colombia, the two moderators of the conversations – Nicole Hogg of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Kerry Brinkert of the Implementation Support Unit – will explain the event's programme and format. Nicole Hogg will then proceed with the first moderated conversation. This will continue until approximately 15:30, at which time there will be a brief pause for the first panel to exit the stage, to be replaced by a second panel. By 15:40, Kerry Brinkert will proceed in facilitating the second conversation. This conversation will end by 16:50, at which time H.E. Iolanda Maria Pedro Campos Cintura, Minister for Women and Social Affairs Mozambique, will deliver concluding remarks.

Bridges between Worlds: the Maputo Edition will feature the following two panels:

Panel #1: Increasing understanding of, and appreciation for, bridges between worlds

- H.E. Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations (Geneva) and Vice-President and Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council
- Jesus Martinez, Executive Director, Foundation for Survivors and Persons with Disabilities, El Salvador

- Shuaib Chalklen, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability
- Christine Pahlman, Mine Action Coordinator, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
- Prachaksvich Lebnak, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- Elke Hottentot, Technical Advisor, Handicap International

Panel #2: Building stronger bridges

- His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al Hussein, President of Jordan's Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and Chairperson of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation
- Ken Rutherford, Director of the Centre for International Stabilisation and Recovery (CISR) at James Madison University (USA)
- Beatrice Nabulime Kaggya, Commissioner of Disability and Elderly at Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development
- Megan Burke, Coordinator, Survivor Networks Project, and International Campaign to Ban Landmines / Cluster Munitions Coalition
- Julio Wilfredo Guzmán, President, National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, (CONADIS), Peru
- Martin Babu Mwesigwa, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Interpretation will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.