

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
(Belgium, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador)**

**Intersessional Meetings**

**8-9 June 2017**

**PART 1: Introduction**

**I. Activities of the Committee**

1. On 26 January 2017 the Committee held its first meeting to discuss the work plan for the Committee for the year. During this initial meeting the Committee recognized that reporting remained a challenge in 2016. It further recognized that the Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting developed by the Committee in 2016 should support States Parties' reporting efforts.
2. On 18 February 2017, the Committee convened an *Informal Discussion on Reporting on Victim Assistance Commitments under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. The Committee used the opportunity to discuss reporting practices and to present the Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting developed by the Committee in 2016. The Committee also took the opportunity to underline the importance of the information submitted by the States in order for the Committee to execute its mandate, including assisting States Parties in making their needs known.
3. On 20 March 2017 the Committee Chair wrote individually to representatives of States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control that submitted information in 2016 and those that did not submit information in 2016 to recall that the Maputo Action Plan commitments called for States Parties to do their utmost to communicate relevant information, employing the Guide to Reporting and annexed sample report, by 30 April 2016. The Committee Chair noted in its letter the importance of transmitting information by the deadline given the short timeframe between the reporting deadline and the intersessional meetings. The Committee Chair also informed the States Parties that the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), which is in part mandated to provide advice and technical support to States Parties on the implementation of the Convention, remained ready to support States Parties in fulfilling their Maputo Action Plan commitments. The Committee made an effort to send letters to all 29 parties with a significant number of mine victims, including those that do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva.
4. On 3 March 2017, the Committee's Chair, Colombia, addressed the Thirty Fourth Session of the Human Rights Council, Debate on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities The Chair recalled the Maputo Action Plan's focus on equality and non-discrimination and the need to engage with broader national and international policies and frameworks related to disability, and other fora, with a distinct understanding that these commitments are anchored in a human rights context. The Chair also focused on the need to make measurable advancements in improving the lives of people with disability, including landmine survivors with an emphasis on positive measures to promote equality, especially in remote and rural areas.

5. During the meeting with the Committee on 20 March 2017 the Chair of the Committee was mandated by the Committee members to hold individual meetings with disability experts in Geneva to look at ways in which the work of the Committee could better integrate into other forums that are critical for advancing sustainable support to persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors. The Committee also modified its working methods in relation to the consideration of the reports submitted by States Parties by assigning to each Committee Member a number of reports to be considered.
6. On 18<sup>th</sup> May the Committee organized a meeting with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance in order to exchange views on their methods of work. The Committee on the enhancement of cooperation and assistance informed on the implementation of the “individualized approach initiative”. The Committee on Victim Assistance underlined that as part of its mandate it will try to identify in its report the specific challenges of individual States Parties with a significant number of mine victims, in order to make these needs known to other States Parties, including in particular the Committee on the enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.
7. Over the period of 11 April 2017 – 3 May 2017 the Chair of the Committee met with a number of disability and human rights actors in Geneva to further define common lines of action that can be taken to promote out joint objectives including a meeting with Mr. Stefan Trömel, Senior Disability Specialist, International Labour Organisation, Mr. Facundo Chavez Penillas, Human Rights and Disability Advisor, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mr. Jorge Araya, Secretary of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. After these meetings, the Chair reported on a list of specific actionable items to be developed in further exchanges with disability and human rights actors.

## **II. Methodology**

8. In line with its mandate of supporting States Parties in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance and in continuation of the Committee’s work in 2015, the Committee gave particular attention to the efforts by States Parties with mine victims to report on the following aspects of the Maputo Action Plan:
  - Assessment of the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 victim to existing services where possible.
  - Time-bound and measurable objectives for the equal and effective participation of mine victims in society.
  - Enhancement to plans, policies and legal frameworks to meet the needs of mine victim and on budgets allocated for their implementation.
  - Enhancement of coordination with subnational entities and increased availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims.
  - Enhancement of the capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation.

9. In preparing its preliminary observations the Committee drew upon information submitted by States in their Article 7 reports.

### **III. Information provided by States Parties on victim assistance**

10. At the close of the Fifteenth Meeting of the States Parties, 29 States Parties had reported significant numbers of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Of these, until **15 May 2017**, nineteen provided information through their Article 7 reports: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
11. Of these States, 17 submitted updated information on victim assistance activities: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. This is an increase of two States reporting compared to the number of reports received last year.
12. One State Party – Sudan – submitted an additional report on Victim Assistance to the Committee.
13. In addition, one additional State Party – Turkey – provided information on its victim assistance efforts.
14. Of the 29 States Parties had reported significant numbers of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, as of 15 May 2017, 12 did not submit updated information to the Convention's depository on areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and on measures to address these areas: Albania, Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Peru, Somalia, Uganda.

## **PART 2: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS**

### **I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE**

15. The Committee was pleased to observe a positive increase in the number of reports submitted by States Parties with 17 reports having been received compared to 10 reports having been received last year during the same time period. The Committee also observed in some cases a general improvement in the quality of the information submitted by States Parties which demonstrates their stronger engagement in victim assistance. We would encourage these States to continue providing high quality information concerning the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan and the Committee looks forward to continued engagement throughout the year.
16. The Committee observed that few States had reported information on the systems in place to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information from States Parties on these matters. The Committee further observed that technical assistance in these areas could be further strengthened. In addressing this aspect the Committee could consider facilitating and further exploring an exchange of training among affected States Parties.

17. The Committee observed that while a number of States had reported having strategies and national action plans on victim assistance in place few States Parties had reported on time-bound and measurable objectives they seek to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13 of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee observed that this is a key element of the victim assistance actions of the Maputo Action Plan and would welcome States Parties reports on these matters indicating progress and challenges faced in the implementation of these actions.
18. The Committee further observed that it would be beneficial if a copy of the national Strategies and Plans could be provided to the Committee together with their annual transparency reports.
19. The Committee observed that reporting on victim assistance remains a challenge for some States Parties. The Committee observed that increased support in this area to the States Parties would be beneficial. The Committee further observed the importance of the Committee hearing from affected States Parties regarding the challenges they may have encountered in acting upon these commitments.
20. The Committee encouraged States Parties to provide a wealth of information on activities undertaken to ensure the inclusion, full and active participation of mine victims in accordance with the Maputo action Plan. The Committee also observed that greater efforts could be exercised in providing an annual update on the progress made in accordance with States Parties' national action plan, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation, and the Maputo Action Plan.
21. The Committee welcomes States that provided information on the challenges faced by them in implementing their victim assistance commitments. The Committee observed that this aspect is of particular importance in order to better assist them in making their needs known. In this regard, the Committee encourages States Parties with a significant number of victims to continue to communicate, including through their annual transparency reports, time-bound and measurable objectives they seek to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will contribute to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society.
22. The Committee observed that funding for victim assistance efforts remains a significant challenge for States Parties in implementing their victim assistance efforts and observed the importance of continuing to work in an integrated fashion with other actors from other disciplines to ensure a and efficient, effective and sustainable approach to meeting our challenges. In this regard, the Committee appreciates the initiative on the "individualized approach" undertaken by the Committee on the enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance.
23. The Committee observed the importance of engaging human rights and disability actors to address the needs of victims in a sustainable fashion. The Committee further observed the importance of cooperation between disarmament instruments which have victim assistance responsibilities.
24. The Committee agreed that the exchange of views with other Committees on Victim Assistance, as well as with disability and human rights actors have to be continued and strengthened. It further agreed that during the second semester of 2017 will devote substantive time to these exchanges.

## II. PART II: INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES

### Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Afghanistan

25. The Committee welcomes the submission by Afghanistan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.
26. The Committee observed that, between 2001 and 2013, the number of casualties fell significantly from a monthly average of 175 to 36. Since 2013 however, the number of casualties has risen to reach a monthly average of 142 in 2016. 60 percent of those casualties were caused by Pressure Plate IED incidents. In the period April 2016 – March 2017, UNAMA recorded 1,023 civilian casualties due to incidents caused by PPIEDs. Increased use of PPIED is thus the greatest challenge faced by the mine action sector in Afghanistan today.
27. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.
28. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.
29. The Committee observed that Afghanistan is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:
  - a. Afghanistan reported that a five year (2017-2022) victim assistance project Plan was developed and shared with stakeholders. Afghanistan further reported that the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has developed a National Strategy for Disability and Rehabilitation 2016-2020. Furthermore Afghanistan reports that the Ministry of Education has developed a National Strategic Plan (1396-1400) with a section on inclusive education. Afghanistan also reported that it has drafted a technical note for psychosocial counselling and peer support for its National Standards;
  - b. Afghanistan reported that a disability task force and community based rehabilitation task force has been in place for almost eight years and provides strong technical guidance to the MoPH and that in 2016 six meetings of the disability taskforce were held and the highlight achievement was the revision and continued update of the new disability and physical rehabilitation strategy (2016-2022) for the health sector;
  - c. Afghanistan also reported that in 2016 the MoPH decided to change the strategy to national strategic plan in disability and physical rehabilitation which is not yet finalized. Afghanistan further reported that in 2016 non-technical and technical standards for

physiotherapy and prosthetic and orthotic with the standards having been translated and reviews and are currently being approved by the MoPH;

- d. Afghanistan also reported that victim assistance, along with other sectors of action of former UNMACA (UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan), has been transferred to DMAC (Directorate of Mine Action Coordination) during 2016 and that the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled is the focal point for victim assistance issues.
30. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Afghanistan on this Action. In particular the Committee noted that Afghanistan developed a new disability and physical rehabilitation strategy for the period 2016-2020. The Committee would welcome receiving a copy of this new strategy.
31. The Committee observed that Afghanistan was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:
- a. Afghanistan reported that in continuation of Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme III (ACAP III) support to Victim Assistance / Disability activities of the UNMAS/DMAC, a total of 2'734 teachers and 1'849 community health workers of the Ministry of Public Health were trained on ACAP III and Victim Assistance/Disability in 19 Provinces;
  - b. Afghanistan reported that the MoPH is coordinating Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) jointly with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled a well-established strategy for inclusion, provision of equal opportunities and empowerment of persons with disabilities with programs in 20 of 34 Provinces. In 2016 there were 3 CBR coordination meetings conducted;
  - c. Afghanistan reported that in 2016 the Disability and Rehabilitation Department (DRD) trained 1857 Community Health workers from 14 provinces in ACAP III disability awareness, physical rehabilitation and UNCRPD issues to improve access of war victims and persons with disabilities to health and rehabilitation service in the Country;
  - d. Afghanistan reported that the DRD was able to get the extension from the European Commission for the 2 years training of 20 orthopaedic technicians from Kunar, Khost, Bamyan and Kabul from 2 to 3 years with 20 students graduating in November 2016. Afghanistan further reported that the DRD was able to mobilize financial resources for the training of 230 physiotherapists and 40 orthopaedic technical from those provinces where there are no physiotherapists and where the need for physiotherapists exists. This training started in August 2016 in 7 training centres with 230 students under a 3 year diploma training Programme and in 2 training centres with 40 technicians.
32. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on these efforts.
33. The Committee observed that Afghanistan had communicated challenges it faced in the implementation of its victim assistance activities. In particular Afghanistan reported that eight

victim assistance projects were designed to be implemented during 2016, but due to lack of funds, only one project was funded.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

34. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.
35. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:
  - a. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre database has been updated with 17 mine victims including the location, victims' identity and assistance provided. Bosnia and Herzegovina indicates that this was done in line with the law on the protection of Personal Data in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
  - b. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that according to the Database, there are 8.382 victims in Bosnia/Herzegovina, from which 274 are unknown, 12 victims in 2016 and 3 victims in 2017 (March). The database has been collected and is disaggregated by number of victims, seasonal variations, age group, fatal/nonfatal injuries, origin of the casualties, gender, types of mine/device and residence place.
36. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on efforts to assess the needs of mine victims and the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services would be welcome.
37. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would additional information on these matters.
38. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on efforts under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan to report on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.
39. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:
  - a. Bosnia reported that the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the decision on forming Coordination Group for victim assistance, and the process of formalization of documents commenced through ministerial bodies. During this

reporting period, a preliminary coordination meeting of this working group for mine victim assistance was held in order to improve the situation in the area.

- b. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2016, four mine victim assistance projects were carried out for the victims of mines/ERW/cluster munitions on credit financing, assistance in employment, economic empowerment of amputees and lump-sum mine victim assistance with 44 beneficiaries.

40. The Committee observed that it would welcome updates on the results of these efforts.

41. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on these efforts.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Cambodia**

42. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

43. The Committee observed that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

- a. Cambodia reported that a Quality of Life Survey (QLS) for mine survivors and other persons with disabilities reached 850 villages, 163 Communes, 54 Districts in 25 provinces and directly interviewed 7,860 persons with disabilities (2,362 Women) including 1,815 landmine/ERW survivors (133 Women). The survey found that most of survivors met received assistances and few of them lack access to services.

44. The Committee observed that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 by reporting on the following time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society:

- a. Cambodia reported that the Royal Government of Cambodia has delegated the responsibility for landmine/ERW victim assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), where it is most appropriately addressed. The Disability Action Council (DAC) Secretariat serves in supporting the MoSVZ in the area of general disabilities.
- b. Cambodia reported that the Department of Victim Assistance of CMAAS is working with the MoSVY, People with Disability Foundations and DAC in order to obtain information on services provided to landmine/ERW victim and conduct the quality of life survey (QLS) by CMAA volunteer survivor networks across the country and that in July 2014 the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018 was in place and disseminated to relevant ministries and disability stakeholders.



45. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Cambodia on this Action. In particular, the Committee observed that Cambodia indicated that the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018 was in place and disseminated to relevant ministries and disability stakeholders. The Committee observed that it would welcome receiving a copy of this new strategy.
46. The Committee observed that Cambodia had not reported on efforts under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan to report on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.
47. The Committee observed that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:
- a. Cambodia reported that in 2016, 28'061 persons with disabilities, including mine /ERW survivors received physical rehabilitation from Physical Rehabilitation Centres (PRCs) such as prosthetic, orthotic, wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches, canes, and walking frames and repairs. Cambodia also reported that 13'828 People with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors which received the service such as physiotherapy and surgery. Cambodia further reported that 54 people with disabilities, including mine / ERW survivors were trained at vocational training centres.
  - b. Cambodia reported that Community Based Rehabilitation services available in 25 provinces had provided education, health care, disability empowerment, prostheses, orthotics, wheelchairs/tricycles distributed and repaired interviews for referral to other service providers, client attended the gender training, job placement and self-help group setting up to 1'985 groups.
  - c. Cambodia reported that it has organized disability and mine survivor forum at sub-national level in order to discuss about the needs of those disabled by landmines, total 120 landmine/ERW survivors (23 women) and people with disabilities participated.
  - d. Cambodia reported that the Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019 was adopted at the Third Review Conference was translated into local language and ready to disseminate to the relevant stakeholders.
48. The Committee observed that Cambodia had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on these efforts.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Chad**

49. The Committee welcomes the submission by Chad of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

50. The Committee observed that Chad reported that in 2016 there were a total of 27 victim in the regions of Ouaddaj and Borkou 24 Men and 3 women.
51. While welcoming the information submitted by Chad, the Committee encourages Chad to provide a follow-up to the wealth of information submitted in the previous year on its victim assistance activities aiming at the implementation of actions 12-16 of the Maputo Action Plan, as well as on the number of challenges and priorities for assistance brought to the attention of the States Parties.
52. The Committee recalled that in 2016 Chad reported that three preparation missions for the implementation of a pilot project were conducted in Ouaddaï and Borkou and that these missions provide an opportunity to assess the challenges and potential of each of the sub-prefectures of the two regions in the implementation of the PADEMIN project. The Committee would welcome further information from Chad concerning the progress achieved in the implementation of the referred pilot projects
53. The Committee recalled that in 2016 Chad reported that the National Mine Actin Centre, with the participation of various ministries, revised the 2010 National Plan for Victim Assistance and that in April 2016 the revised Plan was awaiting finalization and adoption. The Committee would welcome a copy of this National Plan.
54. The Committee also recalled that in 2016 Chad reported the following challenges in providing services and support toe mine victims:
- 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.
55. The Committee would welcome additional information on Chad's efforts to fulfill its commitments under the Maputo Action Plan as well as efforts to address the challenges highlighted above.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Colombia**

56. The Committee welcomes the submission by Colombia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.
57. The Committee observed that Colombia was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:
- a. Colombia reported having put in place a thorough data collection system disaggregating victim-related information across several parameters such as age, gender, occupation, location of incident, activity at the moment of incident, and family surrounding.

- b. Colombia reported 846 mine casualties in 2016 and provided data disaggregated by age, gender, role and social situation. 85% of the reported victims were men and 30% were in the age group 26-35.
58. The Committee observed that Colombia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:
  - a. Colombia reported that it has developed a large policy and institutional framework which provides comprehensive support to victims ranging from pre-hospital time to effective socioeconomic inclusion. This framework was developed with the aim of materializing five types of reparative measures: i. restitution; ii. Compensation; iii. Rehabilitation; iv. Satisfaction; and v. guarantees of non-repetition. The government of Colombia also coordinates with other government institutions through its "Directorate for the integral action against antipersonnel mines" (DAICMA) in providing access to measures of attention, assistance and integral reparation to victims.
59. The Committee observed that Colombia was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 by reporting on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society. In particular Colombia reported that one of its main efforts is to continue with the identification of needs of mine victims for the formulation of clear and precise guidelines for care and repair, for the review and verification of cases of inclusion and non-inclusion in the Single Registry of Victims
60. The Committee observed that Colombia is acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:
  - a. Colombia reported that its legislation already foresees equal access to services for the disabled in various sectors, such as labour, health, and education. With regard to mine/munition/IED victims specifically, the Ministry of Defense is developing and articulating actions that implement legislative and other measures to guarantee that survivors and their families have access to services on equal terms too. Colombia further reports on some barriers to equal access for survivors such as the concentration of services in the major cities and in the capital, and a prevailing culture in certain communities that persons with vulnerabilities cannot learn and do not need education and skill development.
  - b. Colombia reported Colombia efforts in generating inter-sectoral linkages between victim organizations, social organizations and municipal, district and departmental administrations for the construction and implementation of strategies, programs and/or actions that allow the social integration of mine/munition/IED victims, and people with disabilities.
61. The Committee observed that Colombia is acting upon its commitment under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting enhancements of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active

participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

- a. Colombia reported that it adopted a “Protocol for the Effective Participation of Victims of Armed Conflict” which allows effective participation of victims of antipersonnel mines, unexploded munitions and IEDs through the establishment and guarantee of two places for the municipalities, two places for the Departments and places quotas for the National Bureau.

62. The Committee observed that Colombia reported the following challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments:

- a. identification of effective routes for inclusion;
- b. articulation of the “National System for Assistance, Care and Integral Reparation for Victims” (SNARIV) in the identification of the regions with the greatest number of disabled victims
- c. lack of knowledge of the community and public officials
- d. lack of awareness among victims on the services available.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Croatia**

63. The Committee welcomes the submission by Croatia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

64. The Committee observed that Croatia was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

- a. Croatia reported that efforts to provide advisory support to mine victims and their families and to collect data on their needs is carried out during the process of non-technical survey and that this process is a continuation of the 2014 project conducted by Government Office for Mine Action and CROMAC with a goal of establishing a unique Mine Victim Database.

65. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on efforts to assess the needs of mine victims and the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services would be welcome. In particular, the Committee observed that it would welcome information on the results of data collection efforts and efforts to establish the Mine Victim Database.

66. The Committee observed that Croatia had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

67. The Committee observed that Croatia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will

be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

- a. Croatia reported that In accordance with the Law on Mine Action, mine victims assistance is conducted with the coordinating role of the Office for Mine Action and in co-operation with the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC), relevant ministries and NGOs. Croatia reported that the main goal of this plan is to improve the quality of life of people injured by mines and UXOs as well as their families.
- b. Croatia reported that it has developed public health care structures that include clinics, clinical centres, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres and that all persons involved in mine/UXO incidents are entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopaedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. Croatia reported that these rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations and that other forms of aid were mainly implemented by non-governmental sector, and funding was secured through donations from international and domestic entities.

68. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the plan in place to improve the quality of life of people injured by mines and UXOs as well as their families.

69. The Committee observed that Croatia was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. Croatia reported that during 2016 "MineAid" continued with implementation of the "Knowledge-Opportunity-Sinergy" project in the mine-contaminated areas of the Sisak-Moslavina County, second most mine-contaminated county in Croatia with the project involving unemployed women aged 30-65 and youth aged 15-29, who are also beneficiaries social welfare, live in socially deprived areas, are members of ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence etc. Croatia reported that the project was finalized in May 2016 and resulted in the following:
  - approximately 299 counselling sessions were held;
  - 10 business plans finished ;
  - A working meeting was held in the Town of Petrinja (the Association of Persons with Disabilities) for the purpose of consulting and engaging with potential employers in the local community. The beneficiaries were familiarized with the work and employment opportunities in the Association, the steps to establish an association and achieve employment through the project activities;
  - A workshop titled "How to establish a family farm and what are the basic techniques of integrated practical sustainability" was organized. The lecture was organized and held by the project team in the City of Sisak. Beneficiaries received information about where to go if they want to establish a farm, what documentation is required and what are the characteristics of family farms. They were also informed about practical techniques of integrated sustainability and permaculture values and how to apply them in family farm scheme;
  - A public social event was organized on the occasion of the International Women's Day at the Sisak market. At the promotional booth beneficiaries were handing out

handmade crafts made during creative workshops informing citizens about women's experience and importance of self-representation and active participation in the community;

- Three radio shows were organized with the purpose to raising the awareness of employers about barriers in employment of the beneficiaries as well as raising awareness of their capabilities and capacities; also, they presented experiences of the beneficiaries and employers who hired them.

70. Croatia further reported on the activities of Trust Fund "Croatia without Mines" in 2016 which comprised of, amongst other, workshops to support children, mine risk education activities, the establishments of partnerships to provide support to mined victims, as well as socioeconomic support to three families including support in preparing business plans and goods/equipment, amongst others.

71. The Committee observed that Croatia had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on these efforts.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Iraq**

72. The Committee welcomes the submission by Iraq of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

73. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts having taken place "to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible" in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.

74. Iraq reported on a total of 27 mine victims including, 19 men, 2 women and 6 children. Iraq also provided information on the geographical location of the victims.

75. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

76. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan to report on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.

77. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the strengthening of local capacities, enhance coordination with subnational entities as relevant and appropriate, and increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social

protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

78. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Jordan**

79. The Committee welcomes the submission by Jordan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.
80. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.
81. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.
82. The Committee observed that Jordan is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:
- a. **Jordan** reported that victim assistance is part of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities which is formulated and implemented by the Supreme Council for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to guarantee the rights of the injured to receive treatment, rehabilitation, employment, health care and education. Jordan reported that the Ministry of health provides treatment and rehabilitation services to the injured and the National Demining and Rehabilitation Authority provides assistance and support. Jordan reported that the National Strategy is developed every five years and is periodically amended to ensure that the highest rights of the injured in terms of work, education and health.
83. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Jordan on this Action. In particular the Committee noted that Jordan’s National Strategy is developed every five years and is periodically amended to ensure the rights of the injured in terms of work, education and health. The Committee observed that it would welcome a copy of this new strategy.
84. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on efforts under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the strengthening of local capacities, enhance coordination with subnational entities as relevant and appropriate, and increase availability of and

accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

85. The Committee observed that Jordan had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Nicaragua**

86. The Committee welcomes the submission by Nicaragua of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.
87. The Committee noted that Nicaragua reported that since 2010 it has declared being a “Mine Free Country” but recognizes its responsibility to mine victims and for this reason includes mine victims in a national program known as “Todos con Voz” which reinstates their right to have a voice and express themselves for the respect and fulfilment of their rights. The Committee would welcome information on how these efforts address the actions of the Maputo Action Plan. The Committee would welcome information on these matters.
88. The Committee observed that Nicaragua had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.
89. The Committee observed that Nicaragua had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.
90. The Committee observed that Nicaragua had not reported on efforts under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan to report on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.
91. The Committee observed that Nicaragua had not reported on efforts under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the strengthening of local capacities, enhance coordination with subnational entities as relevant and appropriate, and increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.



92. The Committee observed that Nicaragua had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Senegal**

93. The Committee welcomes the submission by Senegal of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

94. The Committee observed that Senegal was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

- a. Senegal reported that there is no mechanism for monitoring accidents in our country but that there is a national civil protection service. Senegal reported that it has recorded 826 victims of mines, civil and military, surviving and deceased. Senegal also reported that data collection for mine accidents is carried out by CNAMS in the field and through local associations, NGOs and the army. The latter, which is the most involved in the procedure, also intervenes in emergency relief whenever requested. Senegal further reported that the collection of data on mine victims and their needs, as well as new accidents, is ongoing.

95. The Committee observed that Senegal reported that there is no mechanism for monitoring accidents in Senegal. The Committee would welcome information concerning efforts to put such a system in place. The Committee observed that it would further welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services would be welcome.

96. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

97. The Committee observed that Senegal is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

- a. Senegal reported that a health care system for people with disabilities is set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Senegal reported that a national social welfare service is established and social workers are appointed to hospitals. Senegal further reported that an equal opportunities card is provided for people with disabilities, including mine victims that give free access to various services including health with this card already available and distributed in the regions.

98. The Committee observed that Senegal was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. Senegal reported that free health care for mine victims is provided in three regional reference hospitals (Zigunichor, Kolda and Sedhiou), where the problem of mines resides and that the structures are competent in emergency relief, subsequent medical care and equipment. Senegal also reported that there are four departmental health centres covering areas at risk and also providing continuous and free care to mine victims regulated by Conventions signed between the Mine Action Centre of Senegal (CNAMS) and the health structures. Senegal further reported that prescribed medicines are also provided free of charge at licensed pharmacies, following a medical consultation with the victim.
- b. Senegal reported that support for mobility is fundamental for the socio-economic integration of victims of mines that have suffered an amputation with the facilities and orthopaedic services housed in the health facilities, five have seen their capacity strengthened (equipment, training, financing). Senegal reported that since 2010, access to prosthetic renewal or repair is free of charge and is done at the request of the victim. Senegal also reported that in order to provide more support to the eighty-five victims, CNAMS, in partnership with the ICRC and the Senegalese Association of Mine Victims, started in December 2015 a program for the fitting of victims in the Centre of motor rehabilitation of Guinea Bissau which has provided 62 mine victims with quality prostheses. Senegal reported that this project is ongoing and that the rest of the group is scheduled to begin in 2017 which serves as an example of South-South cooperation between two States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, Senegal and Guinea Bissau.
- c. Senegal reported that psychological care is considered health care with Ziguichor being home to a regional psychiatric centre which provides free assistance to mine victims who develop psychological disorders.

99. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

100. The Committee observed that Senegal reported challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments. In particular Senegal reported that it has benefited from the support of several bilateral and multilateral partners but that since 2014 support has been suspended, with the exception of the US Department of State. Senegal also reported that in order to ensure the continuation of its mine action program, Senegal has agreed to contribute to the annual national budget, pending the return of its traditional partners.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Serbia**

101. The Committee welcomes the submission by Serbia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

102. The Committee observed that Serbia had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.
103. The Committee observed that Serbia had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would additional information on these matters.
104. The Committee observed that Serbia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:
- a. Serbia reported that in 2015 the government adopted the Decision on establishment of the Intersectional working group on application of the Ottawa Convention which includes representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia.
  - b. Serbia reported that the purpose of the Working Group of Victim Assistance is to monitor the progress made in providing assistance to victims within national plans and legal frameworks and is dealing with the following:
    - Promote measures to enhance the position of anti-personnel mines victims;
    - Promote measures to enhance the legislative frameworks for the protection of the anti-personnel mine victim;
    - Monitor alignment with the applicable legislation regulating the protection of the anti-personnel mine victims with international legislation and national law;
    - Propose special programs and measures to promote and strengthen the capacity of anti-personnel mine victims capacity for public life;
    - Cooperation with the associations of anti-personnel mine victims and civil society organizations involved in enhancement of the positions of the anti-personnel mine victims;
    - Cooperation with relevant institutions from abroad, international organizations and national working groups of the equivalent or similar profile with view to sharing experiences and good practices;
    - Monitor progress regarding the provision of assistance to the anti-personnel mine victims within wider national plans and legal framework;
    - Mapping all existing services.
  - c. Serbia reported that the Strategy for promoting the status of persons with disabilities 2007-2015 is in force which recognizes their equal rights with those of other persons with disabilities (the rights of disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans). Serbia reported that it is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that under the law of on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities is carried out on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life, in accordance with their professional skills. Serbia reported that the law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities was adopted and entered into force on May 23, 2009 and that the provisions of the laws required employees that employ fifty employees to engage one person with disabilities entered into force on 24 May 2010.

105. The Committee observed that Serbia was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. Serbia reported that 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. Serbia reported that in remote rural areas, there are social protection services designed to extend quality assistance in the field of social welfare.

106. The Committee observed that more information on efforts under Action 15 would be welcome.

107. The Committee observed that Serbia had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by South Sudan**

108. The Committee welcomes the submission by South Sudan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

109. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the systems in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.

110. The Committee observed that South Sudan reported 16 mine incidents in 2016 which resulted in 45 victims (32 injured and 13 killed), a decrease in comparison to 2015. The Committee also observed that South Sudan reported that despite the ongoing conflict in the country, more than 385 people received mine risk education in 2016 conducted by national and international actor and that these efforts have contributed to the reduction in the number of mine victims.

111. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

112. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan to report on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.

113. The Committee observed that South Sudan was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. South Sudan reported that the National Mine Action Authority, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of health, civil society organizations, the ICRC, UNMAS, Handicap international and the victim Assistance Disability Organization work together to deliver medical support, physical rehabilitation, psychological support and socio economic services to mine victims and other persons with disabilities. South Sudan further reported that the coordination forum is chaired by the Director General for victim Assistance Ministry of Gender and social welfare and co-chaired by the Director of Victim Assistance of the National Mine Action Authority.

114. The Committee observed that South Sudan had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

115. The Committee observed that South Sudan reported the following challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments:

- a. South Sudan reported that there is no nationwide needs assessment being conducted for the victims in South Sudan. South Sudan reported that its main challenge is funding to support projects targeting, specifically landmine /ERW victim and people with disabilities with in general is not the priority of donors. South Sudan reported that the whole burden of victim assistance is left in the hands of the government and it does not have funding to support the victims of landmines/ERW. South Sudan further reported that
- b. South Sudan 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; it has hindered implementation of the Maputo Action Plan.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Sudan**

116. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan of its Article 7 Transparency Report for the calendar year 2016. The Committee is appreciative of the submission by Sudan of a separate report dedicated to victim assistance for the same period. Based on the information provided in both reports, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

117. The Committee observed that Sudan was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

- a. Sudan reported that Data collection of mine/ERW victims is done through National Mine Action Centre, Ministry of Health, unions of persons with disabilities, and mine action organizations. Sudan further reported that there is also a mechanism for general monitoring by Red Cross Society, National authority for prosthetics and orthotics, and National Mine Action Centre sub offices in the affected states. Sudan reported that the data is collected, revised accurately and recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) of National Mine Action Centre.

118. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on the results of these efforts.

119. The Committee observed that Sudan reported a total of 2,059 casualties (1,470 injured and 588 killed) and provided data disaggregated by age, gender and locations. The Committee further observed that Sudan reported that 635 mine/ERW victims have received support through various victim assistance projects.

120. The Committee observed that Sudan was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 by reporting on the following time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society:

- a. Sudan reported that its victim assistance strategy developed in mid-2016 to 2017 and runs until 2019 has the following objectives:
  - Develop a system for data collection and capturing of victim's data;
  - Enhance coverage of affected areas by medical services, effective and sustainable medical care services;
  - Promote effective and sustainable psychological rehabilitation;
  - Establishment of psychological support system to ensure their reintegration into society;
  - Develop and implement economic integration programs;
  - Promote effective coordination, advocacy, legislation and policies.

121. The Committee welcomes this information provide by Sudan. The Committee observed that it would welcome receiving a copy of this new strategy.

122. The Committee observed that Sudan is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

- a. Sudan reported that the Victim Assistance Strategy was developed and improved in mid-2016 to 2017 (time frame until 2019).
- b. Sudan reported that the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security is responsible for the development of welfare and social protection policies, for the vulnerable segments in the society with more than 80% of the people with disabilities fall within the social security target groups. Sudan reported that the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security is one of the ministries related to the disability issues and efforts must be coordinated with them

in order to accommodate disability requirements within their program. Sudan further reported that disability strategies include relevant ministries and include:

- Strategy on Education for Children with Disabilities.
  - Strategy on Health for Persons with Disabilities.
  - Strategy on Labour and Economic Empowerment.
  - Strategy on Higher Education for Persons with Disabilities.
  - Strategy on Social Security.
- c. Sudan reported that a five-year plan was drawn up by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). This plan included all main focus areas in the CRPD including legislations and policies, legal assistance, prevention and health, education, family empowerment and social protection and participation in political and public life.
- d. Sudan reported that the labour law in Sudan allocates 5% of the governmental jobs to persons with disabilities and that some institutions provide services to disabled persons, especially in major cities.
- e. Sudan reported that some steps have been taken to assist victims including a series of trainings and workshops to build their capacities and expand their job opportunities in various fields and to provide small income-generating projects, especially for vulnerable groups.
- f. Sudan reported allocating a total of 4 million pounds from the public budget to mine action activities, of which 5% was allocated to victim assistance.

123. The Committee welcomes this information provide by Sudan. In particular the Committee notes that Sudan reported on a labour law in place which allocates 5% of the governmental jobs to persons with disabilities. The Committee would welcome additional information on the number of persons covered by this measure.

124. The Committee observed that Sudan was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. Sudan reported that various kinds of activities and services are provided by government institutions such as the Ministry of Social Security and Welfare, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, National authority for prosthetics and orthotics, the Red Cross, United Nations agencies, and national and international organizations.
- b. Sudan reported that within the framework of coordination and cooperation with mine-action organizations and relevant government institutions, policies relating to mine victims have been developed as follows:
- Develop a system for data collection and capturing victim's data;
  - Enhance coverage of affected areas by medical services, effective and sustainable medical care services;
  - Promote effective and sustainable psychological rehabilitation;
  - Establishment of psychological support system to ensure their reintegration into society;

- Develop and implement economic integration programs;
  - Promote effective coordination, advocacy, legislations and policies.
- c. Sudan reported that there is some assistance at the government level, with support from ministries such as social welfare.
- d. Sudan reported that the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) works as supervising, monitoring and coordinating body of the Victim Assistance Programme. Sudan reported that monthly coordination meetings, chaired by the National Mine Action Centre, are held and include all the relevant ministries, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the National authority for prosthetics and orthotics, the Red Cross, United Nations agencies, national and international organizations.
- e. Sudan reported that there is a separate action plan to assist landmine victims, as well as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the implementation plan, through the periodic reports of implementing agencies, monthly meetings and field visits. Sudan also reported that the National Mine Action Centre has a coordinating mechanism with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, during quarterly meetings and that the National Mine Action Centre publishes annual reports on the Victim Assistance Program.
- f. Sudan reported having held several workshops to raise awareness of persons with disabilities on their rights, to advocate their issues, and establishing of institutions for persons with disabilities to provide a number of services such as orthotics and prosthetics, assistance devices, and micro-economic projects, for example ( the last project implemented in Kassala, funded by the Government of Japan).
125. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.
126. The Committee observed that Sudan reported the following challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments:
- a. Sudan reported that victim assistance is not prioritized, such as mine clearance, because of the limited available budget. The limited support for the victim assistance by the donor, has led to limited implementation of activities.
  - b. Sudan reported on the following challenges to integrate mine/ERW victims in society:
    - i. The limited availability of support, compared to the needs of the victims, and their numbers are increasing in some hazardous areas contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war, that have not yet been cleared;
    - ii. The low level of victim's awareness about their rights;
    - iii. The low level of community awareness in advocating for psychosocial support and social acceptance;
    - iv. Lack of funding to support for outreach activities on the rights of persons with disabilities;
    - v. Lack of media advocacy for the people with disabilities.



- c. Sudan reported that the lack of adequate assistance is due to lack of adequate support, and awareness of persons with disabilities of the available services. Sudan reported that this leads to poor services being provided to the target groups.
- d. Sudan reported that there is a lack of services provision in the remote areas and that this impedes access to provide services, such as distance, and lack of service delivery in remote areas.
- e. Sudan reported that one of the challenges facing reporting and monitoring is the lack of coordination with relevant actors and the shortage of qualified national teams in this field.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Tajikistan**

127. The Committee welcomes the submission by Tajikistan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

128. The Committee observed that Tajikistan was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

- a. Tajikistan reported that the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre is the entity responsible for the coordination and monitoring of all mine action activities, including coordination of victim assistance components in Tajikistan as well as the statistical base for mine victims and that to date, since 1992, it has registered 864 mine victims with a total of 489 having been wounded and 375 having been killed with 30% of these being kids.
- b. Tajikistan reported that training on the collection of data was carried out by UNDP and ICRC volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST). Tajikistan reported that Red Crescent Society volunteers completed the collection of data and assessment of the needs of mine victims projected for 2016 (disaggregated by sex and age). Tajikistan reported that currently, more than 90% of accurate and reliable data on victim assistance and needs assessment survey data collected by the ICRC and RCST were entered in to the National Mine Action Centre data base.

129. The Committee observed that it would welcome information on the results of these efforts.

130. The Committee observed that Tajikistan is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

- a. Tajikistan reported that in 2016 by Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (#455) the National Programme for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2020 was approved. Tajikistan further reported that in 2016 the National Strategy for Development of the Republic of Tajikistan was adopted with the

medium-term programme including disability issues including the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- b. Tajikistan reported that in 2016, based on the assessment of needs, 192 families of survivors were supported through the programme of the ICRC “Microeconomic initiatives”. Tajikistan reported that in November 2016, two Grant Agreements on microfinance were extended between the UNDP and two micro-credit funds “Rushdi Sughd” and “Fayzi Surkhob” until May 2017. Tajikistan reported that persons with disabilities living in three districts of Sogd oblast and three districts of Rasht Valley continue to enjoy preferential low-interest micro-loans with the aim of creating income and increase the opportunities for self-employment.

131. The Committee observed that Tajikistan was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. Tajikistan reported that in 2016 the victim assistance programme continued its successful integration into government programmes and the UNDP programme, including in the rule of law and access to justice, and a joint project of the United Nations country team entitled “Building and Strengthening Alliances for Inclusive Policies and Communities for Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan”. Tajikistan further reported that the UNDP provided technical support to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in publications of the revised text of the Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities in Tajik language and analysis of the legal, economic and functional consequences of accession to the CRPD as well as holding a round table on the accession of Tajikistan to the KPI.
- b. Tajikistan reported that in the framework of the UNDP project “the rule of law and access to justice” legal advice is provided for free to persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW affected families. Tajikistan further reported on a number of measures to increase physical accessibility to landmine survivors including by training architects and designers in accessibility and adapting toilets and bathrooms in two pilot areas (the Dushanbe Circus and the Scientific Research Institute for medico-social assessment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities”.

132. The Committee welcomes the information provided by Tajikistan on this matter. In particular the Committee observed that Tajikistan had adopted a National Plan for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2020. The Committee observed that it would welcome a copy of the National Plan.

133. The Committee observed that Tajikistan acting upon its commitment under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to enhance capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation:

- a. Tajikistan reported that in 2016 mine and ERW affected persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, as members of the technical working group on victim assistance, participated regularly in meetings and took decision on matters relating to survivors and other persons with disabilities.

134. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.
135. The Committee observed that Tajikistan reported the following challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments:
- a. Tajikistan reported that a significant number of mine victims live in rural areas, where the unavailability of specialized medical centres and institutions, insufficient number of treatment and prophylactic establishments and the lack of qualified professionals working with persons with disabilities at the local level. Tajikistan also reports that despite the improvement in the quality of diagnosis and treatment of mine victims compared to previous years there remains a shortage of experienced professionals and of modern medical-diagnostic equipment as well as a delay in refresher courses and retraining.
  - b. Tajikistan reported that advisory psychological services are available only in the capital and that there is a lack of more intensive programs of psychotherapy. Tajikistan also reported that the number of people in need of prosthetic and orthopaedic produces increases annually and that the prosthetic and orthopaedic plant in Dushanbe is currently experiencing logistical difficulties and budgetary difficulties and does not have the ability of purchasing semi-finished products to meet the demands. Tajikistan also reported that the ICRC, since 1998 has a prosthetic and orthopaedic plan in Dushanbe and while it does provide support it does not have been able to fully meet the needs of all of those in need. Tajikistan further reports that the number of disabled persons waiting to receive different types of services (wheelchair, prosthetic and orthopaedic services and other) is approximately 700.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Thailand**

136. The Committee welcomes the submission by Thailand of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.
137. The Committee observed that Thailand had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12. The Committee observed that in previous reports, Thailand had provided information on the system in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.
138. The Committee observed that Thailand reported 9 mine casualties (8 injured and 1 killed) and that the significant decrease in the number of landmine victims is the result of better marking of suspected hazardous , improved MRE activities (especially in schools) and the reduction of mine-contaminated areas near urban zones.
139. The Committee observed that Thailand was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 by reporting on the following time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society:

a. Thailand reported the following objectives in the areas of medical care, Physical rehabilitation, Psychological support, Economic inclusion, Social inclusion, Coordination and participation:

- Develop readiness of emergency medical service team to be on standby for deminers during mine clearance operations;
- Promote collaboration between the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) and the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) regarding on-site emergency medical service to mine victims;
- Promote appropriate health care setting in providing physical rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities with participation of local communities;
- Provide psychological remedy and advice to persons with disabilities, including mine victims;
- Protect the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Support independent living of persons with disabilities;
- Improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities and help them cope with the increasing costs of living;
- Promote independent living and participation of persons with disabilities in their communities;
- Provide services for persons with disabilities as prescribed by the law;
- Coordinate and refer persons with disabilities to access further services;
- Involve persons with disabilities in decision making level to design policies, plans, projects on disability issues.

140. The Committee observed that Thailand is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

- a. Thailand reported that the NIEM and the TMAC have begun to collaborate with the NIEM local emergency medical service unit being on standby during mine clearance operations b TMAC officials so as to prepare for possible mine accidents. Thailand further indicated that the two agencies have also conducted joint emergency medical trainings. It is expected that this will also support deminers to become well-prepared for on-site emergency medical treatment for victim of mines and other accidents.
- b. Thailand reported on the development of the Strategic Plan for the Health Care System Development for Persons with Disabilities, B.E. 2560-2564 (2017-2021) to ensure that caregivers and volunteers in the community are given primary health care training.
- c. Thailand reported on a number of enhancements made to legislations, policies and plans concerning economic inclusions including a cabinet resolution dated February 16, 2016 which approved that persons with disabilities who are registered for disability identification cards are eligible to immediately received disability allowance by requesting the Ministry of Interior to revise the rules of disability allowance payment for persons with disabilities.

141. The Committee welcomed this information reported by Thailand. In particular the Committee observed that Thailand had adopted a Strategic Plan for the Health Care System Development for Persons with Disabilities, 2017-2021 to ensure that caregivers and volunteers in the

community are given primary health care training. The Committee observed that it would welcome a copy of this plan.

142. The Committee observed that Thailand was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

- a. Thailand reported that the Department of Medical services, Ministry of Public Health has organised and promoted CBR for persons with disabilities and mine victims and has developed knowledge management projects in different topics including “The role of local administration in promoting health and quality of life of persons with disability” and “approached health care organisations in the community for persons with disabilities”. Thailand further indicates that the DMA also supported the CBR programs for all types of persons with disabilities in 15 hospitals in four regions of Thailand.
- b. Thailand reported having 152 Community Learning Centres (CLC) in 76 provinces of Thailand including 10 centres in Bangkok and 27 centres in mine affected areas that provides two teams of professionals for the local community consisting of social workers, psychologists, local offices and teachers. Thailand reported that the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MoSDHS) also makes use of volunteer networks to assist persons with disabilities, such as identifying person with disabilities in community and their needs, registration for disability identification cards, communications with persons with disability/families/ local administrative officers and other related agencies, individual planning, independent living skills of each type of disability, promotion on health insurance and assistive devices, preparation to enter education, vocational skills for persons with disabilities and stimulation to self –help groups.
- c. Thailand reports that the MoSDHS has been implementing the CBR model for psychological support services to persons with disabilities and that each year, to teams of professionals and volunteers at each CLC provide services for at least 500 persons with disabilities per year. Thailand indicates that attitude of people in the community toward persons with disabilities are change towards caring and supporting persons with disability to participate in the community’s activities. Thailand reported that persons with disability, including landmine victims, can apply to receive interest-free loans from the fund at the amount of not exceeding 1’333 USD for 5 years. Thailand reported that the Department of Local Administration has allocated a budget for disability allowance and that the Government aims to increase the monthly disability allowance from a rate of 500 baht (14USD) to the rate of 800 baht (27 USD).
- d. Thailand reported that those eligible to receive the fund include a) persons with disability ID cards who have no outstanding debt with sufficient fund b) caregivers are guaranteed by disabled people’s organisations or other agencies, c) groups of individuals or disability related organizations. Thailand further indicated that tax exemption is applied for persons with disabilities, caregivers, and employers who hire persons with disabilities and provide accessibility for them.
- e. Thailand reported that the Ministry of Labour and the MoSDHS have continuously worked to raise awareness of the Regulations among government agencies and private companies in order to increase the rate of employment of persons with disabilities. Thailand also reported that the Fund of Empowerment of Person with Disabilities has

allocated approximately 97 million USD to be loaned for self-employment for persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

- f. Thailand reported that in accordance with the law, Thailand has established two types of Disability Service Centres: Provincial Persons with Disability Service Centres, operated by the central government and General persons with Disabilities Service Centres operated by any governmental and non-governmental agencies related to the empowerment of persons with disabilities including local administration organizations. The purpose of these centres is to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, including mine victims, to these services and to reinforce positive social attitudes towards persons with disabilities. Currently, there are 77 Provincial Social Development and Human Security Offices all over Thailand operating to provide services for persons with disabilities and referring them for further services they are entitled to. The Government has allocated to date 650'000 USD to the Disability Service Centres.
- g. Thailand reported that in order to promote independent living and participation of persons with disabilities in their communities the MoSDHS has made available 550 personal assistants, 555 sign language interpreters, 2,498 house modifications, and 3,053 volunteers, and 152 CLC to support persons with disabilities, including mine survivors. Thailand reported that the Government allocated a budget for personal assistance (approximately 1.2 million USD since 2011 to present as well as a budget for housing modifications (approximately 3.6 million USD since 2011 to present).

143. The Committee observed that Thailand had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Yemen**

144. The Committee welcomes the submission by Yemen of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

145. The Committee observed that Yemen had not reported on efforts having taken place “to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements (...) needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible” in accordance with Action 12.

146. The Committee observed that Yemen had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society in accordance with Action 13. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.

147. The Committee observed that Yemen had not reported on efforts under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan to report on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims. The Committee would welcome additional information on these matters.

148. The Committee observed that Yemen was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:
- a. Yemen reported that the Yemen Association for Landmine / UXO survivors (YALS) established in 2004 is responsible for the Yemeni mine survivors and implements the level 4 of victim assistance which implement physical therapy, victims registration and victim reintegration into community life.
  - b. Yemen reported that the Yemen Ministry of Health and Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs, in conjunction with Yemen prosthetic centre and international NGOs conduct support programmes for mine victims including community based rehabilitation projects and training of field workers to cover all priority areas including prosthetics. Yemen report that the victim assistance programme is implemented in three phases: survey and register of victims by special forms containing all information about each victim and their needs, an examination to address their needs and the provision of health care, artificial limbs and physical rehabilitations.
149. The Committee observed that Yemen had not reported on efforts under Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan concerning the enhancement of capacity to ensure the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on these matters.
150. Yemen reported that it was unable to carry out victim assistance activities according to the national standard. Yemen reported that the Yemen Mine Action Program and the Ministry of Health coordinated efforts to address victim assistance according to the recent situation and provide medical assistance according to the available limited fund.

#### **Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Zimbabwe**

151. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and 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 in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:
- a. Zimbabwe reported to be in the process of collecting data and statistics on mine victims and ZIMAC is coordinating efforts to set up a mine victim database through coordination with other Ministries. Zimbabwe reported that currently, the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare is responsible for persons with disabilities (including mine victims) which provides services (medical care, physical rehabilitation, social welfare, economic and social inclusion) to beneficiaries regardless of the cause of disability.
152. The Committee observed that the HALO Trust in Zimbabwe assists mine victim with referrals to acquire prosthetic limbs. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on this coordination.

153. The Committee observed that it would welcome additional information on efforts carried out by Zimbabwe to system in place to carry out assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.

154. The Committee observed that Zimbabwe reported the following challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments:

- a. Zimbabwe reported The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for the social welfare of all people living with disabilities, mine victims inclusive. However, limitations in funding inhibit the full implementation of rehabilitating efforts for mine victims.
- b. Zimbabwe reported that there are no rehabilitation centres, specialist doctors, prosthetics and physical therapists in some areas of Zimbabwe and that many individuals who come from rural areas, including landmine victims either cannot afford to travel to access these special services or cannot spend long periods away from their families or means of income. Poverty is widespread in rural areas, which the Government is trying to reduce by various developmental programmes like Indigenisation, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET).
- c. Zimbabwe reported that Inter-agency coordination of mine action-related activities remains a challenge, which the National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre are looking to bridge by conducting a joint meeting with all line ministries, thus increasing coordination and support to the five pillars of mine action.



## OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY STATES PARTIES

	Article 7 report submitted in 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Information on victim assistance contained in the Article 7 report	Information on Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments provided in the Article 7 report	Information on Maputo Action Plan victim assistance commitments provided through means other than the Article 7 report
Afghanistan	✓	✓	✓	
Albania				
Angola				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓		
Burundi				
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	
Chad	✓	✓		
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	
DR Congo				
El Salvador				
Eritrea				
Ethiopia	✓			
Guinea-Bissau				
Iraq	✓	✓		
Jordan	✓	✓		
Mozambique	✓			
Nicaragua	✓	✓		
Peru				
Senegal	✓	✓	✓	
Serbia	✓	✓	✓	
Somalia				
South Sudan	✓	✓	✓	
Sudan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tajikistan	✓	✓	✓	
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	
Turkey	✓	✓		
Uganda				
Yemen	✓	✓	✓	
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✓	

<sup>1</sup> Status by 15 May