

VA Experts Meeting



Background

The Committee on Victim Assistance, currently chaired by Belgium and including representatives from Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), will convene a *Victim Assistance Experts Meeting* parallel to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The focus of the “Victim Assistance Experts Meeting” will be on the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan (MAP) and in particular Action 15 which commits States Parties to, taking into account their own local, national and regional circumstances, “do their utmost to strengthen 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. This entails removing physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas and paying particular attention to vulnerable groups.”

Experts will be given the opportunity to exchange experience and best practices, reflect on their needs and challenges, and learn about initiatives that are currently being undertaken in the area of inclusive development, assistive technology, as well as ongoing efforts on indicators for disability and Sustainable Development Goals, among other issues of interest for the implementation of Action 15. Participants will also be informed of opportunities under the European Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Convention, as well as on the preparation for the 2019 “Global Conference on Victim Assistance” and the 2019 “Fourth Review Conference” of the Convention. The views and input of Victim Assistance Experts will be particularly valued to contribute to the success of these important events.

Draft Programme

Wednesday 28 November

09:30 **Coffee and light breakfast**

10:00 – 13:00 **Opening of the Victim Assistance Experts Meeting**

Location: Room XXII, 1st Floor, Building E, Palais des Nations

The Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance will open the Victim Assistance Experts Meeting. The Chair will highlight the logic behind the emphasis on the selected topic explaining why it is important in the context of the Convention. The Chair will also give the participants information concerning the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance. Observer members of the Committee will share their perspectives with regard to the implementation status of victim assistance aspects of the Maputo Action Plan (MAP).

Opening remarks:

- Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance of the AP Mine Ban Convention
- ICRC, an observer member of the Committee on Victim Assistance

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

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- ICBL, an observer member of the Committee on Victim Assistance
- ISU Director

Introduction of participants and the two-day programme of the Experts Meeting.

Session One: Overview of the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance and the status of the Maputo Action Plan (Action 15)

The ISU will introduce Action 15 of the MAP and the work that the ISU is currently undertaking in the area of Victim Assistance. Victim Assistance Experts from the States Parties that have reported responsibility for significant numbers of survivors will be invited to share the challenges they face specifically in the implementation of Action 15 of the MAP.

Introduction, why Action 15?

- Mr. Firoz ALIZADA, Implementation Support Officer, ISU

National updates:

- Experts from the States Parties share the challenges they face in implementing Action 15, their needs for assistance and plan to achieve the objectives of Action 15 and other MAP commitments by the time of the Fourth Review Conference. Also, representatives of civil society, the ICRC and UN agencies will have the opportunity to share their comments on the implementation of the MAP.

13:00 – 15:00 Break for lunch and side events

15:00 – 16:30 Session Two: World Health Organization: Inclusive development and assistive technology

The afternoon session aims to provide participants with an overview of the work of the World Health Organization on inclusive development as well as on their efforts in the area of improving access to assistive technology. Participants will have the opportunity to engage on these topics with the WHO.

- Dr. Alarcos CIEZA, Coordinator, Disability and Rehabilitation, WHO
- Mr. Chapal KHASNABIS, Technical Officer, Disability and Rehabilitation, WHO

Following the presentations, the floor will be open for Experts from States Parties and other participants will have an opportunity to ask questions or share comments in relation to the inclusive development or assistive technology.

17:00 Closing First Day

Thursday 29 November

09:30 Coffee and light breakfast

10:00 – 13:00 Session Three: The CRPD and Development of indicators for Disability and the Sustainable Development Goals

Location: Room XXII, 1st Floor, Building E, Palais des Nations

This session will begin with a presentation by the CRPD Secretariat providing information on the CRPD and its implementation architectures.

- Ms. Harumi Fuentes Furuya, Secretary a.i, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN OHCHR Geneva

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) will share its perspectives on the bridges between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- A representative of the IDA (TBC)

In this session, the UNOHCHR will provide information on the status of the process of development of indicators for Disability and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Ms. Navleen KAUR, UN OHCHR Geneva

13:00 – 15:00 Break for lunch and side events

15:00 – 16:45 Session Four: The Fourth Review Conference and the next action plan

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about their contribution to the Action Plan to be adopted at the Fourth Review Conference of the APMBC to take place in Oslo, Norway at the end of 2019.

The Presidency's vision on victim assistance:

- The Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, President Designate of the Fourth Review Conference

Brainstorming on next action plan:

- Experts from the States Parties along with other participants of the meeting will work in small groups to discuss how the next action plan should respond to the needs and rights of landmine victims

16:45 – 17:00 European Council Decision and the Global Conference

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about initiatives being undertaken under the EU Council Decision in support of the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.

17:00 – 17:45 Open discussion on the next experts gathering and future topics for discussion

17:45 – 18:00 Closing of the Victim Assistance Experts Meeting

- Upcoming Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance of the AP Mine Ban Convention
- Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance of the AP Mine Ban Convention

19:00-21:00 Dinner at the Restaurant des Délégués at the Palais des Nations (by invitation only)
