

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

**Intersessional Meetings 7-8 June 2018**

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

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Iraq of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

2. The Committee observed that Iraq reported 17 casualties in 2017, including 14 men and 3 children including 12 injured and 5 killed in Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Basra and Maysan provinces of Iraq, demonstrating a reduction in the number of registered victims versus 27 casualties reported in 2016.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

3. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on needs assessment and the availability and gaps in services, and encourages Iraq to report on these matters, including on 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 mine victims to existing services.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

4. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported having a time-bound and measurable plan of action to achieve victim assistance commitments of the Maputo Action Plan, and encourages Iraq to report on this matter.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

5. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported embedding victim assistance into broader contexts, and allocating resources for implementation, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

6. The Committee observed that Iraq was acting upon aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of services, by providing direct health care, rehabilitation and socio-economic support to over 500 mine victims and persons with disabilities in 2017, as follows:
  - a. 43 mine victims including 42 women and 1 man were provided with jobs by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs;
  - b. 352 mine victims were provided with artificial limbs (252), crutches (43), toilet chair (3), white canes (4), electric wheelchair and other support (1) by the Ministry of Health;
  - c. 10 physical rehabilitation centres around the country benefited from the raw materials, equipment and training courses provided by the ICRC, and;

- d. 106 persons with disabilities were provided with economic and rehabilitation aid by the ICRC.
7. The Committee welcomes additional information on these matters, including on efforts to increase accessibility to economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures, disaggregated by gender and age.

**Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

8. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance coordination concerning the implementation of victim assistance programmes, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

9. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported activities in support of inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations, and welcomes information on this matter.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

10. The Committee observed that Iraq had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, or raising awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

11. The Committee encourages Iraq to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the upcoming Review Conference.