

Fostering Partnerships

Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines
and Other Explosive Remnants of War, and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention obliges States Parties “to do their utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims.” Since the adoption of the Convention, the States Parties have worked to better define *victim assistance* (VA) and address its objectives “with the same precision and intensity as for other aims of the Convention”, to ensure meeting the rights and needs of landmine survivors and affected girls, women, boys, and men. To realise this, States Parties have understood that VA should be integrated into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction.

The *Maputo Action Plan* which has guided the States Parties’ efforts in implementing their Convention obligations since 2014 will have run its course by the end of 2019. In its place, the *Oslo Action Plan* (a new plan of action currently under development) will provide a new road map for implementation of the Convention during the period of 2020 – 2024, including in the area of victim assistance.

The Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities known as *Fostering Partnerships* is hence a timely opportunity. It will allow national and international victim assistance and disability rights stakeholders to share and draw upon good practices to strengthen synergies in efforts around humanitarian, human rights and development frameworks including to efforts carried out to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To do so, *Fostering Partnerships* will focus on the following key questions,

- What are the challenges in integrating victim assistance into broader contexts of disability and development frameworks that need to be addressed?
- What can be done to more effectively break out silos or build bridges in areas of disability, development and victim assistance to harmonize efforts to achieve common goals?
- What are the untapped resources and opportunities that victim assistance and disability rights actors need to explore to mobilise more resources to respond to the needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities?
- What concrete actions are needed to foster partnerships at local, national, regional and international levels to address the needs of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in a sustainable manner, where “no one is left behind”?

States that have indicated a significant number of mine or other explosive of remnant survivors, or are currently implementing victim assistance are particularly encouraged to engage **through their national victim assistance and disability rights experts.**

Over a hundred expert delegates representing States, leading UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, organisations representing the rights of persons with disabilities and mine survivors, academia and researchers from around the world are expected in Amman from 10-12 September. The conference, hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, counts with the technical backing of the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and is made possible thanks to financial support provided by the European Union.