

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – ETHIOPIA

#### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Chile, Sweden and Thailand)

Intersessional Meetings

30 June – 2 July 2020

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

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Ethiopia of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### Mine casualties in 2019

2. The Committee observed that Ethiopia has not provided casualty figures for 2019 or indicated that there were no casualties in 2019. The Committee would welcome additional clarity on this matter and, if relevant, would welcome information, disaggregated by gender, age and disability on all mine casualties that have been registered to date.

#### Establish or strengthen of a centralised database (Action #35)

3. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) runs a national database on persons with disabilities and that the database also includes information on mine survivors.

#### Integrating victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33)

4. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that the MOLSA is responsible for victim assistance and its integration into broader national frameworks. Ethiopia reported that victim assistance implementation is part of the mandates of an inter-ministerial committee and is included in activities of the country's national coordination committee which comprises representatives from government, survivor organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society and academic institutions.

#### Developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33)

5. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported having a National Disability Action Plan (2012-2021) and a Rehabilitation Strategy (2011) with specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives and indicators. The Committee would welcome information on efforts that Ethiopia may have invested to review the National Disability Action Plan to ensure recent developments and commitments, such as the Oslo Action Plan is included in the plan. The Committee would welcome additional information on budget available for implementation of the National Disability Action Plan and a Rehabilitation Strategy and information on consideration of gender and diversity in the these and other relevant plans.

#### Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)

6. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that it has undertaken the following activities to remove physical and attitudinal barriers:
- a) a national physical accessibility standard is in place by the name of “building proclamation”;
  - b) efforts have been made towards creation of a standard to ensure access to means of transportation;
  - c) public awareness activities have been conducted on the rights of persons with disabilities in collaboration with organisations of persons with disabilities; and
  - d) key principles such as human rights, gender equality, diversity and non-discrimination have been considered in relevant policies, planning and programmes.
7. The Committee would welcome any additional information on progress made in 2019 in terms of the removal of social, political and communication barriers.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)**

8. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that steps have been taken by the government to achieve progress in guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities, including by obliging all ministries to ensure their policies and programmes are inclusive of disabilities in accordance with the “proclamation n° 1097/2018”. The Committee would welcome further information on the progresses of enforcement of the proclamation and consideration of the needs and rights of mine survivors in this regard.

**Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)**

9. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that healthcare centres are available in every locality and where such services are not available, services are provided by ambulance, helicopter or local transport to support injured persons, including those injured by mines.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

10. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that a national directory of all relevant services was being developed in 2019 and that referral systems have been in place.

**Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)**

11. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that rehabilitation services have been provided to persons with disabilities and mine survivors and that a national Rehabilitation Strategy has been in place. Ethiopia also reported that some of the rehabilitation centres have faced challenges such as shortage of raw materials (for prosthetics and orthotics) and inadequacy of rehabilitation professionals. Ethiopia indicated the following measures undertaken to address these challenges:
- a) collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to resolve the shortages of raw materials;
  - b) mobility devices are exempted from import tax and provided with a duty-free status; and
  - c) the Ministry of Health and the MOLSA have worked together to prepare a set of curricula for mid and high-level degrees in prosthetics and orthotics.

**Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)**

12. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported on availability of psychological and psychosocial services including peer counselling to mine survivors. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made in this area, such as the number of mine survivors that have benefited from psychological and peer-to-peer support in 2019.

**Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)**

13. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported addressing the social and economic needs of mine survivors including through a national social protection policy and that further work would need to be carried out in areas such as vocational training programmes in order to make them more inclusive of persons with disabilities' needs. The Committee would welcome further information on achievements in meeting the social and economic needs of mine survivors, including in rural and remote areas, such as number of men, women, boys and girls (mine survivors) who have benefited in 2019.

**Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)**

14. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies were addressed. The Committee would welcome further information on types of measures that have been put in place in this regard.

**Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41)**

15. The Committee observed that Ethiopia reported that persons with disabilities and mine survivors have been included in relevant programmes and policies. The Committee would welcome information on achievements made in this regard in 2019.

**Challenges in implementation of Ethiopia's Victim Assistance Commitments**

16. The Committee would welcome additional information on the main challenges faced by Ethiopia in the fulfilment of its victim assistance commitments and any specific proposal it may have on how the Committee and the international community could be of further support to Ethiopia's efforts in fulling its victim assistance obligations.