

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE (Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand) Intersessional Meetings 22 – 24 June 2021

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Activities of the Committee

1. On 15 December 2020, the Committee held its first meeting to discuss the work plan of the Committee in 2021. To ensure consistency in support of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities, the Committee looked at progresses and challenges observed in 2020, with input provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in their role as Observers on the Committee.
2. As in 2020, the Committee decided to continue focusing on a specific thematic area based on common challenges reported by the States Parties. After a careful analysis and discussion, the Committee agreed to focus its efforts in 2021 on Action 35 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) to assist States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to “establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.”
3. On 12 January 2021, the Committee met to discuss the calendar of activities for 2021 and reiterated the importance of keeping the Committee’s work consistent with efforts made by the Committee and other stakeholders in 2020. In addition to focusing on Action 35, the Committee highlighted the need to continue supporting the 30 States Parties that have indicated having a responsibility for a significant number of survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control, to ensure improved reporting including on matters related to consideration of gender and diversity in implementation of Victim Assistance efforts. The Committee also elected one of its members, Sweden, as the Gender Focal Point of the Committee on Victim Assistance for 2021.
4. On 15 January, the Committee hosted a Victim Assistance retreat with participation of the Victim Assistance Coordinator (Spain) and the Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators (the Netherlands and Montenegro) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Colombia), the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM, the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and Humanity & Inclusion (HI). The retreat provided an opportunity for victim assistance stakeholders in Geneva to share their respective priorities and activities in 2021, in promoting a common understanding and cohesive approach in victim assistance.
5. During the months of February and March, the Committee held bilateral meetings with representatives of States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities (Angola, El Salvador,

Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Yemen) to exchange information on victim assistance implementation and reporting. The Committee welcomed this exchange with States Parties concerning their efforts to meet the needs of mine victims and the challenges they are encountering. The Committee informed the representatives of the States Parties that the information that will be submitted in their annual Article 7 reports will serve as the main source of data to assess progress in implementation of the Convention and OAP VA commitments. The Committee informed the respective States Parties that their information will be used to update the baseline value for all victim assistance indicators established at the Eighteenth Meeting of the States Parties (18MSP) and that progress in subsequent years will be compared to this baseline. The Committee encouraged submission of detailed information on victim assistance including on consideration of gender and diversity, through Article 7 Reports, to ensure an accurate assessment of implementation of the OAP.

6. On 22-24 February 2021, support was provided to Colombia in hosting a “*National Stakeholder Dialogue in Colombia: Strengthening Participation and Inclusion of Victims of Mines and Unexploded Ordnance*”. The Dialogue was led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) and it was held with the financial support of the European Union (EU) in accordance with the EU Council Decision (2017/1428), and with technical assistance of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention, in collaboration with the Committee. The Dialogue provided an opportunity for associations of mine victims to strengthen their participation and inclusion by fortifying the capacity of their national network. In addition, the Dialogue brought together representatives of various government agencies and civil society to provide inputs for the revision of Colombia’s victim assistance pathway (La Ruta).
7. On 5 March 2021, the Committee delivered a statement at the 23rd Meeting of the 46th Regular Session of Human Rights Council during their annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities on “participation in sport under Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)”. Given the theme of the session, the Committee’s intervention stressed the fact that social inclusion is an important pillar of victim assistance and that inclusion and participation of mine survivors in social activities, including in sports, is crucial in breaking negative stereotypes and in creating a more inclusive society. The Committee encouraged the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that have not acceded to the CRPD, to do so at the earliest opportunity.
8. On 8 March 2021, the Committee delivered a statement at the 24th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee). In addition to sharing updates on the work of the Committee on victim assistance, the Committee encouraged the CRPD Committee to integrate victim assistance in its efforts and to consider developing a General Comment on Article 11 of the CRPD. The Committee also called on the CRPD Committee to assist the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities not party to the CRPD, to accede/ratify it.
9. On 18 March 2021, the Committee participated in an Article 7 Reporting workshop organized by the Committee on Cooperative Compliance to present the work of the Committee in 2021 and to reiterate to the States Parties the importance of including detailed information in their 30 April 2021 Article 7 Reports. The Committee also provided States Parties with information on the tools available for States Parties to support their Victim Assistance reporting commitments.
10. On 23 March 2021, the Committee held a bilateral meeting with the Bureau of the CRPD Committee and exchanged on the work of the two Committees. The Committee encouraged the Bureau to consider the inclusion of questions in the list of issues regarding the situation of mine survivors and their inclusion and participation in the CRPD frameworks for all States with victim assistance responsibilities. The Committee reiterated its interests in a General Comment on

Article 11 of the CRPD. Following the meeting, on 7 April 2021, the Committee sent a letter to Rosemary Kayess, the Chairperson of the CRPD Committee to thank her for the meeting and to express the Committee's interests in strengthening cooperation in the promotion of victim assistance efforts and disability rights. In response, on 8 June 2021, the Committee received a letter from Ms Kayess who reiterated the interest of the CRPD Committee in strengthening collaboration between the two Committees. The CRPD Committee's Chairperson also assured the Committee of consideration of a General Comment on Article 11 in the future and of the inclusion of mine survivors in their work on the CRPD.

11. On 26 March 2021, the Committee sent a letter to States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to share information on the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance in supporting "...States Parties in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance in particular in States parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control" and provided information on its ongoing efforts in working closely with a "focus group" of 30 States Parties implementing victim assistance responsibilities¹. The objective of the letter was to invite other States Parties to participate in the work of the Committee and consider the possibility of joining the victim assistance focus group, as relevant.
12. On 7 May 2021, the Committee and Observer Members met with the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Gerard Quinn, and his team in follow up to a letter the Committee sent on 5 March 2021, to congratulate him on his appointment, inform him of the Committee's work and to build upon collaboration the Committee had enjoyed with his predecessor. The Committee and the Special Rapporteur exchanged on their mandates, activities and priorities in 2021. The Special Rapporteur informed the Committee that he will be focusing on the protection of civilians with disabilities in situations of armed conflicts in 2021, and that he would welcome inputs on research his team will be conducting in this regard. The Committee encouraged the Special Rapporteur to integrate victim assistance into his work on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee also invited the Special Rapporteur to participate in victim assistance meetings in June and in November.
13. On 27 May 2021 and on 2 June 2021, the Committee met to discuss methodology, structures and division of tasks for the development of the Committee's preliminary observations on information submitted by the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities. The Committee also discussed preparations for the victim assistance session of the 2021 Intersessional Meetings, including a thematic discussion on Action 35 of the OAP.
14. Since 30 April 2021, the Committee has been analysing the victim assistance information submitted by the States Parties in their Article 7 report, in order to draw preliminary observations on the implementation of their victim assistance commitments.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

15. The Committee is mandated, in part to "review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments contained in the OAP" and to "consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work." In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties through Article 7 reports on their efforts in implementing victim assistance in 2020.

¹ Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, DRC, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

16. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #33 to #41, the Committee proceeded to prepare preliminary observations on the following matters:
- Integration of Victim Assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks
 - Designation of a government entity to oversee the integration
 - Development and implementation of a national action plan
 - Removal of barriers
 - Application of multi-sectoral efforts
 - Establishment or strengthen of a centralised database
 - Access to first aid, ongoing emergency medical care
 - National referral mechanisms and directory of services
 - Access to rehabilitation services, psychological and psychosocial services and social and economic inclusion services
 - Measures to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors
 - Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them
 - Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation
 - Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered
 - Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments
17. Given the multifaceted requirements articulated in some of the OAP's actions, such as Action #33 and Action #38, the Committee unpacked these actions in its preliminary observations to capture the full breadth of the respective States Parties' commitments and efforts in implementation. The Committee also included information on casualties in its preliminary observations to create an understanding of progress made in reduction of casualties in some cases, and challenges faced due to ongoing casualties in other cases.
18. In addition to observing information in accordance with Victim Assistance Actions (#33 - #41), this year the Committee integrated some of the cross-cutting Actions, such as Actions #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, #8 and #9 of the OAP in its preliminary observations due to their intersectional dimensions and relevance to victim assistance, to ensure they are included and counted when measuring and tracking the OAP's indicators.

III. Information provided by States Parties on Victim Assistance Implementation

19. At the close of the 18MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 30 States Parties had reported significant number of mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Of these, as of 31 May 2021, 17 had submitted Article 7 reports: Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
20. Of these States, 16 submitted updated information on Victim Assistance activities in their Article 7 reports: Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
21. Of the 30 States Parties that had reported significant numbers of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control, as of 31 May 2021, 14 had not submitted updated information on efforts to implement Victim Assistance commitments: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

22. As of 31 May 2021, three other States Parties – Algeria, Chile and Turkey – submitted information through Article 7 reports, on their efforts to implement Victim Assistance commitments.

PART 2: OBSERVATIONS

I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE

23. The Committee would like to thank the States Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control – Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - as well as to other States Parties - Algeria, Chile and Turkey- that have provided information on implementation of their Victim Assistance commitments. The Committee is also grateful to the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities that have provided clarifications or further information in response to observations and conclusions provided by the Committee in 2020.
24. The Committee encourages other State Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Uganda - that have not submitted Article 7 Reports or did not include information on victim assistance in its Article 7 Report, to do so as soon as possible. The Committee would also like to encourage other States Parties which have previously reported casualties and/or implementing victim assistance and have not done so this year to provide updates on their victim assistance efforts, as soon as possible.
25. The Committee observed that of the 19 States Parties that have reported on their victim assistance efforts, five States – Chile, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru and Thailand – have not reported new casualties in 2020. The Committee commends efforts made by these States Parties to prevent new casualties, thus making tangible progress towards ending casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.
26. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – reported new casualties in 2020, with high casualties reported by Afghanistan (1,332), Yemen (532), Colombia (167), Turkey (67), Cambodia (65), Iraq (38) and South Sudan (37). The Committee observed that while anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war continue taking a heavy toll, the number of new casualties has been reducing overall, thanks to the preventive measures such as risk education and mine clearance carried out by the States Parties. The Committee encourages the States Parties to increase preventive efforts to end new casualties as soon as possible, as stressed upon by paragraph one of the OAP. The Committee further encourages States Parties to ensure that casualty data is considered in the development of their mine risk education programmes to ensure a targeted approach.
27. The Committee observed that data on mine affected families and communities is not collected or reported in most cases, therefore, it encourages the respective States Parties to take this matter into consideration to ensure meeting the needs of all mine victims, including mine survivors, affected families and communities.
28. The Committee observed that while progress has been reported by most of the States Parties that submitted information on Victim Assistance, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the

process of assistance provided to mine victims. The Committee is concerned of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the coming years, including potential decrease in resources to victim assistance and its integration into broader frameworks due to redirection of national resources and priorities. In this respect, the Committee would like to draw the States Parties attention to this challenge and encourage them to ensure that resource continue to flow to the implementation of their Victim Assistance commitments.

29. The Committee observed that most of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities that reported this year, have indicated integrating the Victim Assistance commitments of the OAP in their work in 2020. Like in 2020, the Committee observed that the States Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control would benefit from further and continued technical support to ensure timely efforts are made to achieve the objectives of the OAP on Victim Assistance.
30. The Committee observed that the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities show progress with regards to implementation of Action 33 of the OAP. Of the 19 States Parties that provided information on Victim Assistance, 18 of them reported that national entities have been designated to coordinate victim assistance related activities including its integration into broader national frameworks. Most of them reported having a national action plan, mostly as an integral part of disability planning, to ensure the needs and rights of mine victims. The Committee observed that one aspect of Action 33, which concerns the “removal of physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services...” could be given more prominence and more information could be provided on progress in this regard by the States Parties.
31. Like in 2020, the Committee observed a progressive trend by the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities in integrating victim assistance commitments into broader policies and programmes in conjunction with the provisions of the CRPD. The Committee appreciates the approach taken by the national mine action centres in staying actively involved, while continue to advocate for the strengthening of the role of national health, social affair and disability authorities. Such an approach is important for the sustainability of assistance to mine victims and in fulfilling the States Parties’ commitments under the Actions #33 and #34 of the OAP.
32. The Committee understands that the removal of barriers that hinder participation and inclusion of mine survivors into their society is one of the key commitments under Action #33 and encourages States Parties to step up efforts and to provide information on progress made and remaining challenges in this regard.
33. Like in the previous years, the Committee once again would like to highlight the importance of developing and implementing measurable, realistic and time-bound national inclusive plans, sensitive to diverse needs and situations of all mine victims including men, women, boys, girls living in remote and rural areas, and encourages the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to do more in this regard in accordance with their commitments under Actions #33 and #34 of the OAP.
34. The Committee observed that of the 19 States Parties that reported on Victim Assistance efforts in 2021, 18 of them have reported applying multi-sectoral approach in accordance to their national contexts and policies, hence making progress towards achieving the objectives of Action #34. Also, most of the States Parties reported that they have taken steps to align victim assistance activities with the provisions of the CRPD as required by Action #34, often by enacting national laws, policies and inclusive action plans.

35. The Committee observed that while currently not party to the CRPD, Tajikistan and South Sudan reported making efforts to align victim assistance activities with the CRPD and both States reported undertaking national process towards ratification/accession of the CRPD. Currently 27 of the 30 States Parties with significant number of mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control are party to the CRPD. The Committee encourages the remaining 3 States Parties to accede to the CRPD as soon as possible.
36. The Committee observed that the following 12 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, , Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – reported having a national database with capacity to integrate data on mine victims, or have taken steps to create/strengthen consolidation of data or databases, thus making progress in achieving the objectives of Action #35 of the OAP. The Committee observed that five States Parties - Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique, Turkey and Yemen – reported collecting data and with some reported making the data available for the use of relevant stakeholders.
37. In accordance with Action #35 of the OAP, the Committee encourages all the States Parties implementing victim assistance to step up efforts to “establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.”
38. The Committee observed that conducting national survey to identify mine victims, to understand their living conditions, needs and challenges has remained one of the most common and persistent challenges for several States Parties. As in 2020, the Committee would like to call upon the States Parties to increase efforts and partnerships in this regard and encourages the international community to increase cooperation and assistance to respective States Parties with regards to data collection, consolidation of data and other aspects of Victim Assistance.
39. The Committee observed the following 15 States Parties - Algeria, Angola, Chile, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe - reported on availability of emergency assistance and healthcare, and the information provided by several of these States Parties also show that important challenges yet to be addressed in this regard. Provision of first aid or emergency response, and medical care are essential for many reasons, including to reduce fatalities among new casualties and severity of injuries, therefore, in accordance with Action #36 of the OAP, the Committee calls for further national commitments and international cooperation in this regard.
40. The Committee observed that only 9 States Parties – Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – provided updates on implementation of Action #37 with regards to establishing or strengthening national referral mechanism and directory of services. The Committee would welcome further information on both aspects of Action #37, namely developing/strengthening of national referral mechanism and developing/strengthening of national directory of services.
41. The Committee observed that most of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities that reported this year, show measurable progress in providing physical rehabilitation services to mine survivors and persons with disabilities. The Committee would like to draw attention to the multifaceted commitments of Action #38 with regards to rehabilitation, including the need to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of assistive devices, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. The Committee encourages the States Parties with Victim Assistance

responsibilities to increase allocating sustainable resources to rehabilitation services and to mobilise international support, including by taking advantage of the assistance and guidance provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) upon request by its Member States.

42. The Committee observed that most States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Zimbabwe - provided information on availability of psychological, psychosocial, mostly delivered through public hospitals and other healthcare centres. The Committee would welcome further and more measurable information on availability of psychological and psychosocial including peer to peer support and its integration into broader healthcare frameworks. And in accordance with Action #38, the Committee wishes to encourage the States Parties to do more in meeting the psychosocial needs of mine survivors, their affected family members and the family members of those that have been killed.
43. The Committee observed that 18 of the 19 States Parties which submitted information on their Victim Assistance efforts reported making some progress in meeting the social and economic needs of mine survivors by providing various types of assistance such as vocational training, employment opportunities, pension, and improving national frameworks, consistent to efforts reported in 2020. The Committee welcomes the efforts and encourages the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to continue in providing support to meet all aspects of social and economic needs of mine victims. The Committee would also draw attention to the importance of embedding efforts into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant programmes such as reconstruction, poverty reduction, education, capacity development and universal health coverage frameworks.
44. The Committee recalls that in 2020 only seven States Parties - Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand and Zimbabwe - had provided information on their efforts with regards to integrating measures in their national disaster management frameworks for safety and protection of mine survivors and persons with disabilities and is pleased to observe this year 12 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand and Zimbabwe - provided information on efforts made with regards to safety and protection of mine survivors, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.
45. The Committee encourages all States Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control to increase national efforts to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, such as COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee reminds the States Parties of the availability of case studies² the Committee presented at the 2020 Victim Assistance Experts Meeting in relation to implementation of Action #40 of the OAP.
46. The Committee observed that the following States Parties – Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand and Zimbabwe – reported making progress in their efforts to ensure the inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes. The Committee encourages further efforts to in accordance with Action #41 and paragraph 11 the OAP, which requires the States Parties to ensure “the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination”.

² Case Studies: Ensuring the Safety and Protection of Mine Survivors in Situation of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies (2020), available on the Convention’s website at: https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/MSP/18MSP/VA_Experts_Meeting/Ensuring_the_Safety_and_Protection_Paper-10_November.pdf

47. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe – provided information on measures in place including through national laws and progress achieved with regards to consideration of gender, age, disability and/or other diversity dimensions in implementation of their Victim Assistance activities. This indicates an increase of two States Parties in comparison to last year, reporting on consideration of gender and diversity, as required by the Action #3 of the OAP. The Committee encourages all States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities to integrate gender and diversity in their victim assistance efforts, to ensure no one is left behind.
48. In addition to the information provided by the States Parties on their victim assistance efforts demonstrate national commitments to address the rights and needs of mine victims, the Committee observed that ten States Parties – Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, South Sudan, Tajikistan and Thailand – provided information on allocation of national financial resources or other kinds of commitments for implementation of victim assistance. In accordance with Action #1 of the OAP, the Committee would like to encourage all States Parties with Victim Assistance responsible to “demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation.”.
49. The Committee observed that most of the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities that reported this year, have also shared information on challenges they have been encountering in providing assistance to mine victims. Challenges such as shortages of financial resources, absence of accurate and national data on mine victims or consolidation of available data into a centralised system can be seen among most common challenges that have persistent for several years, in addition to difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee encourages both the States Parties with Victim Assistance responsibilities, and the States Parties in a position to support, to increase their efforts to address these challenges as soon as possible.
50. The Committee observed that States Parties requiring support would benefit from reaching out to the Implementation Support Unit for technical support in the implementation of their Victim Assistance reporting commitments, including the OAP commitments.

Annex I

Oslo Action Plan

Victim Assistance Reporting Baseline
Information provided by States Parties in 2021

States Parties		Submitted Article 7 Report in 2021	Victim Assistance Actions of the Oslo Action Plan								
			#33	#34	#35	#36	#37	#38	#39	#40	#41
1	Afghanistan	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	
2	Albania										
3	Algeria	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
4	Angola	√	√	√		√	√			√	√
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina										
6	Burundi										
7	Cambodia	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
8	Chad										
9	Chile	√	√			√		√	√		
10	Colombia	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
11	Croatia										
12	Congo DR										
13	El Salvador										
14	Eritrea										
15	Ethiopia										
16	Guinea-Bissau										
17	Iraq	√		√	√	√			√	√	√
18	Jordan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
19	Mozambique	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
20	Nicaragua	√	√	√				√	√		√
21	Peru	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√
22	Senegal	√	√	√	√	√		√			
23	Serbia	√									
24	Somalia										
25	South Sudan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
26	Sri Lanka										
27	Sudan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
28	Tajikistan	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
29	Thailand	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
30	Turkey	√	√	√				√	√		
31	Uganda										
32	Ukraine	√									
33	Yemen	√	√	√	√	√					
34	Zimbabwe	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Annex II.

**Reported casualty
in States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, according to latest
information submitted by the respective States Parties**

States Parties	2020 casualties									Total of latest reported casualties for all times ³
	Women		Girls		Boys		Men		2020 total	
	injured	killed	Injured	killed	injured	killed	injured	killed		
Afghanistan									1332	More than 35,300 ⁴
Albania										1,003
Algeria										7,248
Angola		1		1	7	2	2		13	9,296 ⁵
Bosnia and Herzegovina										1,760
Burundi										Approx. 6,000
Cambodia	4		3		16		42		65	Approx. 65,000
Chad										2,834
Colombia	6		4	1	124	19	10	3	167	11,986
Croatia										597
Congo DR										2743
El Salvador										4,500
Eritrea										Approx. 5,750
Ethiopia										16,616 ⁶
Guinea-Bissau										Approx. 1,300
Iraq	1	1					16	20	38	34,081
Jordan										1,018
Mozambique										Approx. 10,000 ⁷
Nicaragua										1,276
Peru										348
Senegal									15	847
Serbia										1,123
Somalia										Approx. 1,300 ⁸
South Sudan									57	5,116 ⁹
Sri Lanka										1,732 ¹⁰
Sudan									22	2,225
Tajikistan							3		3	882
Thailand										799
Uganda										Approx. 2,000

³ The figures are presented based on latest information the States Parties have provided through their Article 7 Reports or other ways, such as through their updates at the Convention's meetings in their communication with the Committee on Victim Assistance. It is worth to note that the figures get adjusted frequently by the respective States Parties. The Committee welcomes updated information or corrections at any time.

⁴ Afghanistan has reported that as of 2018 a total of 350,000 war related victims were registered by the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) out of which 34,000 of them are victims of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War. The total figure in the table includes the figure from information Afghanistan provided this year.

⁵ Angola has reported registering 9,296 in Namibe, Cunene, Huila, Benguela, Cabinda, Zaire, Huambo, Malanje & Uíge provinces as of 2018. Casualty information reported after 2018 is not included in this figure

⁶ Ethiopia has reported identifying 15,321 victims before 2002 and registering 1,295 victims between 2002 and 2004.

⁷ Mozambique has reported that through an upcoming statistical survey of persons with disabilities, disaggregated data on mine survivors will also be compiled.

⁸ Somalia has reported the 1,300 registered victim is subject to verification as part of a National Mine Victim Survey which Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) plans to conduct, when funding is secured.

⁹ South Sudan has reported 4,500 victims were recorded before 2011, and the figure is included in the total of 5,116 appears in the table.

¹⁰ Sri Lanka has reported that since 1985 a total of 1,732 individuals have been injured by anti-personnel mines or ERW.

Yemen	42			490			535	7,798 ¹¹
Zimbabwe		3		3	4	6		269 ¹²

¹¹ The figure shows a total of 3,854 reported for years until 2013, 2,359 reported for 2016, 2017 and 2018, 1,059 reported for 2019 plus 532 reported for 2020.

¹² Zimbabwe has reported having a considerable number of mine victims. 260 of the victims have been registered as of 2019 and the identification of the rest of the victims goes on.