

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Italy, Slovenia, Uganda (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

19-21 June 2023

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Activities of the Committee

1. On 12 January 2023, the Committee held its first meeting, to revisit the mandate of the Committee and to discuss its 2023 work plan, according to its priorities presented at the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP). In preparation for 2023 activities, the Committee reviewed information on the status of implementation of victim assistance, in framework of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), and challenges reported by the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities.
2. On 14 February 2023, the Committee met to discuss and decide on a theme of the Committee's work in 2023, "Mental Health and Psychological Support" (MHPSS) to draw attention to the needs of mine victims and the challenges and shortcomings encountered in this regard. The Committee chose MHPSS to build on progress made in promoting rehabilitation in 2022, as MHPSS is considered an integral part of broader healthcare and rehabilitation. In addition, the Committee discussed the calendar of VA activities and events and preparations for the 2023 VA Retreat.
3. On 7 March 2023, the Committee met with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) to exchange information on Victim assistance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), in line with its mandate to engage disability rights community and to raise awareness among them regarding the provision of Victim Assistance. The Committee welcomed the CRPD Committee's decision to develop a 'General Comment'¹ on Article 11 of the CRPD and provided suggestions and recommendations on integration of Victim assistance and related matters in the drafting and development of the General Comment.
4. On 13 March 2023, the Committee delivered a statement at the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), during its annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee welcomed recommendations presented by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the need to redesign and transform the modality, design and delivery of services provided to persons with disabilities. The Committee highlighted the significance of participation and inclusion and appreciated the HRC's efforts in this regard. In addition, the Committee shared information on its activities, and invited stakeholders to a victim assistance Global Conference, which will be hosted by the Kingdom of Cambodia, with the support of the European Union in October 2023.

¹ The CRPD Committee provides authoritative guidance about the provisions of the CRPD by elaborating and demystifying certain provisions through comprehensive 'General Comment' which serves as a reference document and helps States Parties to fulfil their obligations. The Article #11 of the CRPD mirrors Action #40 of the Oslo Action Plan, which aims to ensure the safety and protection of persons with disabilities and mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies. The Committee on Victim assistance had encouraged the CRPD Committee to adopt a General Comment on Article #11, to strengthen the synergies between victim assistance and the CRPD and overall disability rights.

5. On 14 March 2023, the Committee hosted the 2023 victim assistance retreat with participation of VA and Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), VA Coordinator of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM, the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), representative of the UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 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. The retreat, which is an annual meeting of Geneva based victim assistance and disability rights stakeholders, provided an opportunity for the different organizations to share their activities and priorities for 2023 as well as exchange other relevant information.
6. On 15-16 March 2023, support was provided to Sudan in hosting a National Stakeholder Dialogue: *“A Strategic Approach to Respond to the Needs of Mine Survivors and Other Persons with Disabilities in Sudan”*. The Dialogue was hosted by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) in collaboration with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and national ministries and other stakeholders in Khartoum. The Dialogue was held with the financial support of the European Union and with technical assistance of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention, in collaboration with the Committee. The Dialogue focused on finalising the National Strategic Framework for Victim Assistance, by providing a platform for various stakeholders including representatives of ministries, representative organisations of mine victims, persons with disabilities including from rural and remote areas, civil society organisations and other national and international stakeholders.
7. During the months of March, April and May, the Committee along with other Committees and the Presidency of the Convention held bilateral with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the bilaterals was to exchange information on implementation of the OAP, to encourage reporting on victim assistance and to offer assistance, in accordance with the mandate of the Committee.
8. On 29 May 2023, the Committee delivered a statement at the World Health Assembly under the agenda item concerning “the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities”. The Committee welcomed the first global report on health equity for persons with disabilities by the World Health Organization (WHO) and supported recommendations included in the report and encouraged integration of victim assistance into broader healthcare. The Committee also highlighted the need to increase efforts and cooperation for rehabilitation and assistive technology and called upon WHO to enhance its support to the affected States Parties to address shortcomings in rehabilitation and assistive technology. The Committee drew attention on challenges affecting States Parties in providing MHPSS and called on WHO’s disability and mental health departments and other stakeholders to assist the States Parties with victim assistance obligations to address this challenge, including by integrating the psychosocial and psychological needs of mine victims into broader mental health policies and programmes. Moreover, the Committee on victim assistance on behalf of the States Parties invited all the States that have not joined the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to do so as soon as possible.
9. On 30-31 May 2023, Uganda, as the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance participated in the “African Regional Seminar on Mine Action: a safe and mine free Africa” which was organised and hosted by the Government of Algeria in Algiers. The Chair spoke on behalf of the Committee

and highlighted the need to increase efforts including by enhanced regional and south-south cooperation, to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Victim Assistance in the region.

10. Since 1 May 2023, the Committee has been analysing victim assistance information submitted by the States Parties to develop preliminary observations on the implementation of their victim assistance commitments.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

11. 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 or directly to the Committee, on their efforts in implementing victim assistance in 2022.
12. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #33 to #41, the Committee proceeded to prepare preliminary observations on the following matters:
 - Designation of a Government entity to oversee the integration
 - Integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks
 - 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, peer to peer support 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
13. 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 multi-layered commitments in these and other actions can be seen in the list of indicators annexed to each respective preliminary observation.
14. In addition to observing information in accordance with victim assistance Actions (#33 - #41), like in 2022, 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.

15. The Committee included information on casualties in its preliminary observations to create an understanding of progress made in reduction of casualties in some cases, and challenges due to ongoing casualties in other cases.
16. The Committee also included a table (the OAP country reporting tracker) on status of reporting by the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities on implementation of the Victim assistance commitments of the OAP, for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

III. Information provided by the States Parties on Victim Assistance Implementation

17. At the close of the 20MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 37 States Parties - Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Nicaragua, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe – had reported mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Of these, as of 2 June 2023, 24 States Parties submitted Article 7 reports: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
18. Of the 24, 23 States Parties included updated information on victim assistance activities in their Article 7 reports: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
19. Of the 37 States Parties that reported mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, as of 2 June 2023, 13 had not submitted updated information on efforts to implement victim assistance commitments: Afghanistan, Burundi, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Palestine (the State of), Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

PART 2: OBSERVATIONS

I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE

1. The Committee would like to thank the States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control – **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe**, that have provided information on implementation of their victim assistance commitments. The Committee is grateful to the States Parties – **Peru, South Sudan and Türkiye** - that have provided clarifications or further information in response to preliminary observations and/or conclusion provided by the Committee on victim assistance in 2022.
2. The Committee encourages other State Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control - **Afghanistan, Burundi, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Palestine (the State of), Somalia, Sudan, Ukraine and Uganda** – that, as of 2 June 2023, 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.

3. The Committee observed that of the 23 States Parties that have reported on their victim assistance efforts, 8 States Parties – **Albania, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal and Serbia** – have not reported new casualties in 2022. 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.
4. The Committee observed that 16 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe** – reported new casualties in 2022, with the highest casualties reported by **Yemen (279), Colombia (135), Iraq (50), Cambodia (41), South Sudan (40), Angola (35) and Türkiye (32)**. The Committee observed that while anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordinances continue taking a heavy toll, the number of new casualties has been reducing overall, with significant reductions reported by **Yemen and Türkiye** compared to 2021. The Committee encourages all the States Parties to increase efforts to end new casualties as soon as possible, as stressed upon by the OAP.
5. The Committee observed that data on mine affected families and communities is not collected or reported in most cases, given the significance of having data on indirect victims, the Committee encourages the States Parties with mine victims under their jurisdiction or control to take this matter into consideration to ensure meeting the needs of all mine victims, including mine survivors, affected families and communities.
20. The Committee observed that the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities continued to make progress with regards to implementation of Action #33 of the OAP. All the 23 States Parties that provided information on victim assistance- **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported on a specific national entity which is mandated to coordinate victim assistance related activities including its integration into broader national frameworks.
6. The Committee observed that the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities continued integrating victim assistance commitments into broader policies and programmes including those developed and enforced to implement the CRPD. 20 States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Zimbabwe** - provided information on efforts made to integrate victim assistance into broader national frameworks. To enhance integration of victim assistance in broader frameworks the Committee encourages the States Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control to report on their efforts in mobilising further financial and technical support to ensure timely efforts are made to achieve the objectives of the OAP on Victim Assistance.
7. 13 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - provided information on activities undertaken or measures in place to remove or reduce barriers facing participation or inclusion of mine survivors. The Committee would like to encourage other States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, to report on progress made to remove barriers that hinder participation and inclusion of mine survivors into their society as required by Action #33.
8. 19 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Zimbabwe** - reported having developed or in the process of

developing national action plans as required by Action #33 of the OAP. This includes the States Parties that have included the needs of mine survivors into plans that concern broader issues, such as disability, health, social protection, humanitarian response and other frameworks.

9. In accordance with Action #33, the Committee would like to encourage the development and implementation of *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.
10. Of the 23 States Parties that reported on victim assistance efforts, 21 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported taking multi-sectoral approach as per Action #34. The Committee observed that 11 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, South Sudan², Tajikistan³, Thailand and Zimbabwe** – reported that they have taken steps to align victim assistance activities with provisions of the CRPD, in accordance with Action #34.
11. 33 of the 37 States Parties reporting mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control - **Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - are party to the CRPD. The Committee encourages all other States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to accede to the CRPD as soon as possible.
12. The Committee observed that the following 16 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, 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 centralised database, thus making progress in achieving the objectives of Action #35 of the OAP. The Committee encourages all States Parties implementing victim assistance 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.”
13. The Committee observed that conducting national surveys to identify mine victims, to understand their living conditions, needs and challenges has remained among common and persistent challenges for several States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities. The Committee encourages increased efforts and partnerships for data collection, consolidation of data to better design and implement programmes and policies pertaining to victim assistance.
14. The Committee observed the following 18 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported on availability of emergency assistance and healthcare, while, some of the States Parties facing challenges such as lack of timely first aid, capacity to respond efficiently or shortages in the number of healthcare centres, health workers

² South Sudan is in the process of ratifying the CRPD, and in the meantime, making efforts to align its relevant policies and plans with the CRPD provisions.

³ While Tajikistan is a signatory to the CRPD and yet to ratify, it has been reporting efforts in aligning relevant policies and programmes with provisions of the CRPD.

and first responders in or around affected remote areas and/or limited equipment required for emergency response. In this regard, the Committee recognise the important work done by the World Health Organization (WHO) in this regard and welcomes its latest global report on health equity for persons with disabilities, published in 2022⁴.

15. The Committee notes that the provision of first aid or emergency response and medical care is vital to reduce fatalities among new casualties and to reduce severity of injuries thus it encourages the States Parties with ongoing casualties to increase national efforts and invites the international community to enhance cooperation and assistance in this regard.
16. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Nigeria, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Zimbabwe** – provided updates on implementation of Action #37 with regards to establishing or strengthening national referral mechanism and/or directory of services. The Committee welcomes an increase in the number of States Parties which reported on Action #37 this year and would like to invite other States Parties implementing victim assistance to provide information on both aspects of Action #37, namely developing/strengthening of national referral mechanism and developing/strengthening of national directory of services.
17. The Committee observed that all 23 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - that provided updates on their victim assistance activities, reported on availability of rehabilitation and assistive technology. The Committee observed important challenges facing the provision and delivery of rehabilitation services and assistive technology in affected communities.
18. The Committee appreciates the States Parties having invested significant efforts to provide rehabilitation services and, in some cases, having integrated rehabilitation into their national public health systems or other national frameworks. In this respect, the Committee welcomes the WHO's efforts including its latest global report on assistive technology⁵. 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.
19. The Committee encourages the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on allocation of sustainable resources to rehabilitation services and on mobilisation of partnerships, including by taking advantage of the assistance and guidance provided by the WHO upon request by its Member States.
20. The Committee observed that 15 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Zimbabwe** - provided information on availability of psychological, psychosocial support most of which indicated that these services are available at public hospitals and open to everyone in need including mine victims. The Committee also noted that only 2 States Parties - **Algeria and Cambodia** - reported on availability of peer-to-peer support, to assist mine survivors in their psychological recovery. The Committee invites all the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to provide further information on availability of peer-to-peer support and its integration into health systems.

⁴ Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities (WHO) <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600>

⁵ Global Report on Assistive Technology (WHO and UNICEF) <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049451>

21. The Committee observed that 18 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported making progress in meeting the social and economic needs of mine survivors by providing various types of assistance such as vocational training/education, employment opportunities, pension, and improving national frameworks, consistent to efforts reported in previous years. The Committee noted that the type and scale of services reported in meeting the socio-economic needs of mine victims significantly varies, and that a lot more would need to be invested in empowering all mine survivors, affected families and communities in the long run.
22. The Committee would like to draw attention to the importance of embedding victim assistance into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant programmes such as reconstruction, poverty reduction, education, capacity development and universal health coverage frameworks. Also, the Committee encourages all States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on their efforts to provide support to meet the social and economic needs of mine victims.
23. The Committee observed that 10 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Iraq, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe** - provided information on efforts made or measures in place with regards to safety and protection of mine survivors. The Committee encourages all States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on efforts to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and health crises. The Committee invites States Parties to draw from the case studies⁶ the Committee presented at the 2020 Victim Assistance Experts Meeting in relation to implementation of Action #40 of the OAP.
24. The Committee welcomes the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) to develop a ‘General Comment’ on Article 11 of the CRPD, the provision of which, reinforces the OAP’s Action #40. The Committee invites the States Parties implementing victim assistance to contribute to the development of the General Comment on Article 11 of the CRPD.
25. The Committee observed that the following 16 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe** - reported on efforts made concerning inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes. The Committee encourages all States Parties that have a responsibility to assist mine victims, to report on their efforts 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” in line with Action #41 of OAP.
26. The Committee noted that 14 States Parties - **Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye and Zimbabwe** – reported activities and implementing plans and policies that demonstrate national ownerships in implementation of victim assistance obligation, with only a few indicating allocation of national funds. The Committee encourages all the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on efforts that strengthen national ownerships concerning implementation of victim assistance obligations, in accordance with Action #1 of the OAP.

⁶ 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

27. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, 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. The Committee also noted that most of the information provided in this regard, focused on disaggregation of data by gender and age, whereas consideration of gender, age and disability is required by the OAP across mine action activities and in other relevant domains. The Committee encourages all States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to provide information on their efforts to integrate gender and diversity in their mine action activities and other efforts as relevant.
28. The Committee observed that 9 States Parties - **Albania, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, South Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - shared information on challenges they encountered 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 persisted for several years. The Committee encourages both the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities, and the States Parties in a position to support, to increase efforts to address these challenges as soon as possible.
29. The Committee would like to remind States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities requiring support, to reach out to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for technical support and advice in the implementation of their victim assistance and reporting commitments, including the OAP commitments.
30. The Committee also draws attention to two tables annexed to this document. Annex I provides an overview of reporting on implementation of Actions #33 to #41 of the OAP, and annex II provides updates on casualties reported by the States Parties. The Committee invites States Parties to provide further information or any correction on data included in the annex.

Victim Assistance Reporting Status
Information provided by States Parties in 2023 for the year 2022

States Parties		Submitted Article 7 Report in 2022 ⁷	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	The Democratic Republic of the Congo										
13	El Salvador										
14	Eritrea										
15	Ethiopia										
16	Guinea-Bissau	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√
17	Iraq	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
18	Jordan	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√
19	Mauritania										
20	Mozambique										
21	Nigeria	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	
22	Nicaragua	√	√	√				√	√		√
23	Palestine (State of)										
24	Peru	√	√	√	√	√		√			√
25	Senegal	√	√	√			√	√			
26	Serbia	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
27	Somalia										
28	South Sudan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
29	Sri Lanka	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√
30	Sudan										
31	Tajikistan	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
32	Thailand	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
33	Türkiye	√	√	√	√			√	√		
34	Uganda										
35	Ukraine	√									
36	Yemen	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	
37	Zimbabwe	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√

Annex II.

⁷ As of 2 June 2023.

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

States Parties	2022 casualties									Total of latest reported casualties for all times ⁸
	Women		Girls		Boys		Men		2022 total	
	injured	killed	Injured	killed	injured	killed	injured	killed		
Afghanistan										More than 35,300 ⁹
Albania									0	1,003
Algeria						1	2	4	7	7,250
Angola									35	9,349 ¹⁰
Bosnia and Herzegovina									1	1,780
Burundi										Approx. 6,000
Cambodia									41	Approx. 65,000
Chad									29	2,863
Colombia									135	12,301
Croatia									1	607
The Democratic Republic of the Congo									40	3,103
El Salvador										4,500
Eritrea										Approx. 5,750
Ethiopia										16,616 ¹¹
Guinea-Bissau									0	Approx. 1,500
Iraq									50	34,138
Jordan			91				927		0	1,018 ¹²
Mauritania										
Mozambique										Approx. 10,000 ¹³
Nigeria										472
Nicaragua										1,276
Palestine (State of)										
Peru			15				333		0	348 ¹⁴
Senegal									0	862
Serbia										630
Somalia										Approx. 1,300 ¹⁵
South Sudan									40	5,839 ¹⁶

⁸ The figures are presented based on latest information the States Parties have provided through their Article 7 Reports or other means, such as through their updates at the Convention's meetings in their communication with the Committee on Victim Assistance. It is worth noting that the figures get adjusted frequently by the respective States Parties. The Committee welcomes updated information or corrections at any time.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Angola has reported registering 9,314 this includes the 18 casualties reported for 2012.

¹¹ Ethiopia has reported identifying 15,321 victims before 2002 and registering 1,295 victims between 2002 and 2004.

¹² Disaggregated numbers show the total casualties for all years.

¹³ Mozambique has reported that through an upcoming statistical survey of persons with disabilities, disaggregated data on mine survivors will also be compiled.

¹⁴ Disaggregated numbers show the total casualties for all years.

¹⁵ Somalia has reported the 1,300 registered victims are subject to verification as part of a National Mine Victim Survey which the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) plans to conduct, when funding is secured.

¹⁶ South Sudan has reported 5,145 victims were recorded before 2011, and the figure is included in the total of 5,839 casualties.

Sri Lanka					1		2		3	2,900 ¹⁷
Sudan										2,444
Tajikistan					1	1			2	887
Thailand									1	728 ¹⁸
Türkiye									32	
Uganda									0	Approx. 2,500
Ukraine										
Yemen									279	8,635 ¹⁹
Zimbabwe									6	283 ²⁰

¹⁷ Sri Lanka had reported that since 1985 a total of 1,732 individuals have been injured by anti-personnel mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW), and in 2023, the figure is adjusted to 2,900.

¹⁸ Thailand reported that due to data improvements, the number of survivors reported in 2022 has been adjusted from 799 to 728.

¹⁹ 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 279 reported for 2022.

²⁰ Zimbabwe has reported having a considerable number of mine victims and that identification of the rest of the victims to be completed, subject to the availability of resources.