

Sessin A2: setting the scene

Over the past 25 years the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention has made significant progresses in victim assistance, particularly by establishing a framework that requires the States Parties to support mine survivors and affected families, and communities.

Key developments include recognition of the rights of mine victims and the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies on disability, health, and social services. However, major challenges persist, including the need for sustainable, long-term support, insufficient resources especially when the States Parties with Victim Assistance outstanding obligation complete mine clearance. Additionally, ongoing conflicts including protracted conflicts and casualties in some areas continue to exacerbate the demand for support, straining existing national capacities.

In this session, panellists offer their perspective on VA implementation efforts, the disability rights movement in the region, progress achieved and challenges that still need to be addressed. In addition, panellists are set to speak on the critical role of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in victim assistance, and complementarities, synergies, and gaps that exist between the two Conventions.

Loren Persi, Impact Research Team Leader, Landmine Monitor, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)	Landmine Monitor findings on victim assistance implementation, including casualties in SE Europe and Ukraine
Mateja Toman, President, National Disability Council's, Slovenia	The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), its complementarities and gaps with Victim Assistance
Suela Lala, Director, Together Foundation, Slovenia	Disability momentum in the SE Europe; achievements and challenges to address