

## **Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

**Intersessional Meetings, 17 – 20 June 2025**

### **Victim Assistance**

#### **Statement by Austria**

Mr. Chair,

Austria aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Our Convention was the first multilateral disarmament instrument explicitly recognizing the rights of survivors, affected families and communities to have their needs met and for all states to assist comprehensive victim assistance in a non-discriminatory manner. Victim assistance has always been a truly cooperative endeavor. As the UNSG said only yesterday, “The protection of innocent lives depends on our collective action and commitment.”

Survivors and affected communities know best how to most effectively address their needs. For Austria, a human-centred approach with the full, equal, effective and non-discriminatory participation of survivors in society remains at the heart of our Convention and we are honored to serving in the Committee on Victim Assistance for the next two years.

This is the first meeting since the adoption of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan and it gives us the opportunity to establish a base line for implementation of the Action Plan in the years to come. The Checklist on Victim Assistance for the Action Plan will assist the work of national victim assistance and disability experts in implementing and reporting on relevant actions of the Action Plan in the years to come.

Mr. Chair,

To effectively harness our expertise, resources and ensure a wider impact, we must make use of synergies in victim assistance with other existing instruments, including the CCM, Protocol V of the CCW, and the CRPD. In addition, the Political Declaration on EWIPA incorporates provisions on victim assistance and offers further potential for collaboration on a policy and practical level.

In this regard, the Victim Assistance Committee hosted a side event at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin in April and held a joint statement at the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD last week in New York. Both occasions allowed to further foster synergies among victim

assistance provisions in humanitarian disarmament efforts and with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Incorporating gender and diversity considerations, including in the framework of the WPS agenda, is essential to ensure that all those in need can benefit from victim assistance in accordance with their rights. In this regard we also endorse the joint statement on gender, diversity and WPS.

Mr. Chair,

Austria has been actively supporting victim assistance efforts both in States Parties as well as in countries that have not yet acceded to the Convention. We will continue to do so wherever possible and through the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Thank you