

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

ALBANIA

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Austria, Burkina Faso (Chair), the Netherlands, and Sri Lanka)

Intersessional Meetings

17-20 June 2025

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

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:

Ensure that a relevant government entity in affected States Parties is assigned as the focal point to coordinate victim assistance and oversee and enhance the integration of victim assistance activities into broader national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks (Actions 30, 1 and 2)

2. Albania reported that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) is responsible for the implementation of victim assistance, and its integration into broader frameworks.

Develop a national specific, measurable, realistic, and time-bound disability action plan (Actions 30 and 3)

3. Albania reported on implementation of the 2021-2025 National Action Plan for Persons with Disability which was developed in accordance with the Law (No. 93/2014) “On the Inclusion of and Access for People with Disabilities,” and in support of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Albania provided a link to its 2021-2025 National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities: https://shendetesia.gov.al/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Plani-Kombetar-2021-2025_ENG.pdf

Include mine and other explosive ordnance victims or their representative organisations, in victim assistance planning and implementation at the national and local level (Actions 30, 31 and 39)

4. Albania reported on inclusion of persons with disabilities, including mine and other explosive ordnance (EO) survivors in relevant programmes and policies.

Report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans (Action 30)

5. Albania reported that the MOHSP will soon begin the process of evaluation of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Persons with Disability and drafting of a new National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities for the periods of 2026 to 2030.

Carry out inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims are effectively addressed (Action 31)

6. Albania reported that MOHSP coordinates policies on the rights of persons with disabilities and ensures they access social protection, access to justice, education, health, social housing, employment and vocational training, in accordance with the objectives and measures of the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025.

7. The Committee would welcome information on inter-ministerial and/or inter-sectoral coordination on implementation of victim assistance/disability rights.

Identify all mine and other explosive ordnance victims and collect accurate and comprehensive information on their needs, challenges and geographic locations in a manner disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other considerations (Action 32 and 9)

8. The Committee recalls that in 2019, Albania reported a total of 1,003 mine victims and that the data was disaggregated by age and gender.

9. The Committee would welcome an update - disaggregated by gender, age, and disability - on all mine casualties registered in Albania.

Integrate the data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims into a national centralised database, such as disability data systems (Actions 32 and 9)

10. The Committee would welcome information on integration of the data on mine and other EO victims into a national centralised database, such as national unified disability database.

Provide effective and efficient context-specific emergency medical care to new casualties and improve national capacity through training, including on psychosocial first care, specialized training for health professionals and layperson first responder training in affected communities (Action 33)

11. Albania did not report new casualties in 2024.

Ensure that mine and other explosive ordnance survivors have access to health services including in rural and remote areas (Action 33)

12. Albania reported that medical services are provided through public hospitals to all persons with disabilities, including mine survivors and that they access health care services, therapeutic treatment, and rehabilitation interventions for persons with disabilities, including mine survivors and their families at all levels of service delivery in primary and hospital health care centres.

Ensure that a national/sub-administrative area referral mechanism is in place to facilitate access to services (Action 34)

13. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Create and disseminate a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine and other explosive ordnance victims (Action 34)

14. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services (Action 35)

15. Albania reported on provision of medical specialised services to persons with disabilities through the University Hospital of Trauma in Tirana including orthopaedics, physiotherapy, and prosthesis services. Albania reported that specialised interventions are offered by 11 regional hospitals and the University Trauma Hospital.

16. Albania reported that about 50 speech therapists and physiotherapists have been added to the family medicine teams and continuously efforts are made to improve the provision of rehabilitation and therapeutic services.

Ensure to provide assistive technology (Action 35)

17. Albania reported on provision of prosthetics through national and regional hospitals such as the Kukes Regional Hospital and the University Hospital of Trauma, with the Kukes Regional Hospital offering mainly repairing services.

Increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology affordable and accessible (Action 35)

18. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in areas of national capacity and resources to make assistive products more affordable and accessible to mine and other persons with disabilities.

Ensure mine victims have access to psychological and psychosocial support services including to mental health (Action 36)

19. Albania reported that socio-health services have been expanded to 103 socio-health centres, at the national level, where family medicine teams are joined by psychologists and social workers, who provide psychosocial support and other interventions for various vulnerable groups including mine victims.

20. Albania reported on implementation of the 2023 – 2026 Mental Health Action Plan which continues to promote the provision of mental health services at the community level, through the deinstitutionalisation and decentralisation of these services.

Efforts to make peer-to-peer support availability including by integrating it into public healthcare and other relevant systems (Action 36)

21. The Committee would welcome information on availability of peer support and its integration into healthcare systems.

Meet the social and economic inclusion needs of mine victims (Action 37)

22. Albania reported that amendments were approved to certain provisions of the Law no. 15/2019 “On the Promotion of Employment” to establish the Social Employment Fund for the promotion of employment, integration and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

23. Albania reported that the legal framework for social housing provides for the coordination of housing programmes with public health, social assistance, employment and job training programmes. Albania reported that through the Social Fund financing mechanism, new community services have been created for persons with disabilities.

Remove barriers to social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families (Action 37)

24. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

The number of mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing social and economic services (Action 37)

25. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk (Action 38)

26. The Committee would welcome an update on measures put in place to ensure the safety and protection of mine and other EO survivors along with other persons with disabilities, in situations of emergency.

Increase inclusion of and access by mine victims into programmes for humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection (Action 38)

27. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Improve accessibility and strive to remove physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communications barriers (Actions 39 and 37)

28. Albania reported that the Law No. 93/2014 "On inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities", obligates relevant institutions to ensure accessibility of services and non-discrimination for all categories of persons with disabilities.

29. Albania reported that in accordance with the Law No. 111/2017 "On legal aid guaranteed by the state", according to Article 11, persons with disabilities, regardless of their income, are direct beneficiaries of primary and secondary legal aid.

Include survivors and/or their representative organisations in matters that affect them, including in planning and implementation at the national and community levels (Actions 39, 38 and 30)

30. Albania reported on inclusion of mine survivors and persons with disabilities in relevant activities, such as the mid-term review of the national action plan on persons with disabilities.

CROSS - CUTTING ACTIONS:

Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, partnership and coordination (Action 1)

31. Albania reported on efforts undertaken and plans to adopt a new national action plan for the period of 2026-2030, indicating its national ownerships.

32. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard including on progress made to increase partnerships and national coordination to enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.

Ensure that gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors, are considered (Action 5)

33. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Allocating national financial commitments for victim assistance implementation (Action 40)

34. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

Having a resource mobilisation plan (for victim assistance) in place (Action 41)

35. The Committee would welcome information in this regard.

SRAAP country reporting tracker							
Victim Assistance							
Albania							
Actions	Indicators	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Additional information or clarification requested by the Committee
30	% of affected States Parties that report on the relevant government entity assigned as the focal point to oversee and enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks to ensure its sustainability, including following Article 5 completion;						
	% of affected States Parties that report having an inclusive national action plan in place considering mine and other explosive ordnance victims, gender, age, disability, and other considerations and containing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound objectives;						
	% of affected States Parties that report including mine and other explosive ordnance victims or their representative organisations, in victim assistance planning and implementation at the national and local level;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on progress and challenges in implementing their national action plans.						
31	% of affected States Parties that report having in place an interministerial and multi-sectoral coordination mechanism to ensure that the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims are addressed;						The Committee would welcome information on inter-ministerial and/or inter-sectoral coordination on implementation of victim assistance/disability rights.
	% of affected States Parties that report including the needs and rights of mine and other explosive ordnance victims in relevant national policies, legal frameworks, and budgets.						
32	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to identify mine and other explosive ordnance victims and disaggregate victim data by gender, age, disability, and other considerations;						The Committee would welcome an update - disaggregated by gender, age, and disability - on all mine casualties registered in Albania.
	% of affected States Parties that report the inclusion of data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims in a national centralised database such as disability data systems and make data available to relevant stakeholders in accordance with data protection regulations/measures.						The Committee would welcome information on integration of the data on mine and other explosive ordnance victims into a national centralised database, such as national unified disability database.
33	% of affected States Parties that report having a mechanism in place to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response to new casualties;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on availability and accessibility of health services, including in rural and remote areas.						
34	% of affected States Parties that report having a national/sub-administrative referral mechanism in place which is available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims;						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report having a comprehensive directory of services available, accessible, and inclusive for all mine victims.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
35	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to increase the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the provision of assistive technology;						
	% of States Parties that report on efforts to increase resources and national capacity to make assistive technology affordable and accessible.						The Committee would welcome information on progress made in areas of national capacity and resources to make assistive products more affordable and accessible to mine and other persons with disabilities.

36	% of affected States Parties that report on mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing mental health and psychological support disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the provision of and integrating peer-to-peer support into public healthcare and other relevant systems.						The Committee would welcome information on availability of peer support and its integration into healthcare systems.
37	% of affected States Parties that report on efforts to remove barriers to the social and economic inclusion of mine survivors and affected families;						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report on programmes for inclusive employment, livelihoods, and other social protection services;						
	% of affected States Parties that report on the number of mine and other explosive ordnance survivors and affected families accessing social and economic services, disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
38	% of affected States Parties that report integrating the safety and protection of mine survivors in their emergency/humanitarian response and preparedness plans;						The Committee would welcome an update on measures put in place to ensure the safety and protection of mine and other EO survivors along with other persons with disabilities, in situations of emergency.
	% of affected States Parties that report on mine victims' inclusion and accessibility to programmes for humanitarian assistance, risk reduction, and conflict preparedness and protection.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
39	% of affected States Parties that report on progress in removing physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal, and communication barriers;						
	% of affected States Parties that report including survivors and/or their representative organisations in matters that affect them, including in planning and implementation at the national and community levels.						
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS							
1	% of affected States Parties that report integrating Convention implementation activities into: national development plans and budgets, strategies and budgets including on poverty reduction, humanitarian response, on health and mental health, gender equality inclusion of persons with disabilities, peacebuilding, Human Rights, climate change adaptation plans, environmental protection and improvement, and/or disaster risk reduction						
	% of affected States Parties that report having strengthened partnerships and coordinated Convention implementation activities with relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, climate, environmental, development, health, disability, and human rights sectors						The Committee would welcome further information in this regard including on progress made to increase partnerships and national coordination to enhance the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks.
5	% of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies integrating gender, age, disability considerations, and the diverse needs and experiences of people in mine-affected communities including mine survivors;						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report national work plans and strategies developed through inclusive consultation with stakeholders including survivors and representatives of mine-affected communities						
	# of mine victims and survivor organisations participating in Convention meetings						
40	% of affected States Parties that report making national financial commitments to their implementation of victim assistance.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of States Parties that report on exploring all sources of funding, including conventional and alternative/innovative						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
41	% of affected States Parties that report on progress, challenges in implementation, and requirements for assistance.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that report having a resource mobilisation plan in place.						The Committee would welcome information in this regard.
	% of affected States Parties that have taken advantage of the Individualised Approach.						