

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)**

**Intersessional Meetings 7-8 June 2018**

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina**

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine Casualties**

2. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the BHMAIS database was continuously updated and the information was available for use by stakeholders in accordance with Bosnia and Herzegovina's Law on the Protection of Personal Data. The Committee welcomes additional information, including on the number of new victims in the reporting period, disaggregated by sex and age.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

3. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on needs assessment and the availability and gaps in services and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on assessment of the needs of mine victims disaggregated by sex and age, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

4. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on its time-bound and measurable objectives and encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on these matters.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

5. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation. The Committee encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to report on enhancements that have been or will be made to integrate victim assistance into broader frameworks.
6. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on a 700,000 Euros project that was financed by the Delegation of the European Union that will be implemented in 2018 by ASB, an organisation.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

7. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina was implementing aspects of the Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and economic opportunities, as follows:
  - a. Through the implementation of four projects for mine/cluster munition/ERW victims, 90 persons directly benefited from assistance. In addition, the Association of Amputees of Republic of Srpska "UDAS" implemented a project for assistance in the field of physical therapy, which benefited nine persons;
  - b. A social inclusion training program was conducted according to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 75 home visits were made to the victims of mine/cluster munition/ERW, and;
  - c. In 2017 the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina financed a project in support of social and economic empowerment of 50 mine/cluster munitions/ERW victims and their family members.
8. The Committee welcomes additional information on types of assistance provided to victims, and information on all victims who have received assistance, disaggregated by gender and age.

#### **Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

9. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on creation a Coordination Body for Mine, Cluster Munitions, and ERW Victim Assistance in 2017 and that it was expected that the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina will adopt the establishment of the Coordination Body in the first quarter of 2018.
10. The Committee welcomes the creation of the Coordination Body for victim assistance implementation, and it observed that it would welcome additional information on the enhancement of local capacities related to victim assistance programmes and policies in accordance with Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan.

#### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

11. The Committee observed Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on efforts under Action 16 concerning “the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation” and welcomes information on this matter.

#### **Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

12. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on efforts to remove barriers, including expanding equality services in rural and remote areas, and on efforts to raise awareness of the imperative to address the needs and guarantee the rights of mine victims, in an age- and gender-sensitive manner and would welcome information on this matter.

#### **Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

13. The Committee observed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not reported on its efforts on the implementation of Action 18, and would welcome information on efforts to identify challenges that remain and priorities for assistance, in advance of the next Review Conference.