

**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 Burundi

1. The Committee welcomes the updates submitted by Burundi containing information on progress and challenges in its victim assistance programmes. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

Mine casualties

2. The Committee observed that Burundi had not provided an update on new mine casualties and would welcome information in this regard, as well as on the total number of mine victims in Burundi, including “sex and age-disaggregated data”.

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

3. The Committee observed that Burundi is acting upon its commitments under Action 12 of the Maputo Action by reporting on data collection in ten provinces of the country, as follows:
 - a. The Directorate General of Civil Protection through DAHMI has collected data on mine victims in the following provinces: MAYOR, DUBANZA, CIBITOKI, MURAMVYA, MWARO, NGOZI, RUMONGE, RUTANA, BUJUMBURA, and GITEGA, and as a result 481 mine victims were identified.
 - b. 481 mine victims were identified to be in need of assistance.
4. While acknowledging Burundi’s efforts in identifying mine victims and their needs, the Committee would welcome sex- and age disaggregated information on the 481 identified victims and information on types and magnitude of their needs.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

5. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society and would welcome information on this matter.

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

6. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts under Action 14 concerning 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, and would encourage Burundi to report on enhancements that have been or will be made to integrate victim assistance into broader contexts.

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 noted that Burundi is acting upon aspects of Action 15 by reporting on direct provisions of assistive products and in-kind assistance to mine victims, as follows:
 - a. Mine victims were provided with 40 wheelchairs, 18 tricycles and two prostheses, and;
 - b. Mine victims were provided with 126 cartons of soap and one ton of rice.
8. The Committee would welcome sex- and age-disaggregated information on mine survivors benefited from assistive products and economic supports, and it would also encourage Burundi to report on efforts, as per Action 15, to increase availability of and accessibility to comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

9. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts to strengthen local capacities and to enhance coordination with subnational entities in order to improve and facilitate assistance to victims and would welcome information on these matters.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

10. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts to enhance 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 would welcome information in this regard.

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

11. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported on efforts to raise awareness on the needs and rights of mine victims and to remove physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers, including expanding quality services in rural and remote areas, and would encourage Burundi to report on these matters.

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

12. The Committee observed that Burundi is acting on aspects of the imperatives under Action 18 by providing information concerning challenges facing mine victims and the country's victim assistance programme, as follows:
 - a. An overarching challenge is insufficient resources, as victim assistance does not receive the same priority as other pillars of mine action. This has affected Burundi's plan to set up a mechanism and structure for victim assistance programme;

- b. The integration of victim assistance, including integration of care, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims have been undertaken at a slow pace, as victim assistance is seen as the exclusive responsibility of mine action authority. The report also stated that delay in integrating victim assistance into broader contexts, is also due to lack of priority given to victim assistance by stakeholders;
 - i. Sometimes services offered to victims do not correspond to the needs of victims in terms of quantities and/or qualities, and;
 - ii. Lack of inclusion and participation of landmine survivors in decision-making processes and lack of reliable data have added upon the list of challenges in victim assistance in Burundi.
13. The Committee observed that Burundi had not reported any efforts to overcome the identified challenges in advance of the next Review Conference, and encourages Burundi to report in this regard.