

**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 Chad

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Chad 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 Chad reported a total 136 mines/ERW casualties, including 33 killed and 113 injured in Borkou and Tibesti regions in 2017, which shows a significant increase in comparison to 27 casualties reported in 2016. The Committee welcomes this information disaggregated by sex and age.

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

3. The Committee observed that Chad reported on assessment of mine victims in Borkou and Tibesti in 2017, and indicated that in general victims face rising problems of access to services of all kinds, including due to inaccessibility of roads that hinder service delivery to victims and their referral to services, and welcomes information on any efforts carried out to address these challenges.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee observed that a time-bound five-year plan of action that was developed in 2016 in Chad, was still awaiting validation at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and encourages Chad to review the relevance of the plan given the two-years have passed from the time it was developed, and adopt it. The Committee welcomes a copy of the plan, once validated.

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

5. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported on any efforts to integrate victim assistance into broader contexts and allocation of resources in this regard, and welcomes information on these matters.

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)

6. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported on commitments outlined under Action 15, neither it reported on recommendations made by the Committee in 2017 in relation to Chad's efforts to address the following challenges reported in 2016:
 - a. Lack of technical expertise in rehabilitation, education and economic integration;
 - b. Lack of facilities and equipment for medical care, rehabilitation, education, and economic integration;

- c. Lack of coordination of victim assistance and social and cultural barriers which impede the participation and interaction of persons with disability in society.
7. The Committee encourages Chad to fulfill its commitments under Action 15 and report on plans and activities addressing the reported challenges.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. The Committee observed that Chad reported on efforts to coordinate victim assistance with the participation of stakeholders in the Coordination Group for Victim Assistance (CGVA), but had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on this matter.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

9. The Committee observed that Chad reported that in 2016 it was agreed that the CGVA would be composed of two organizations of persons with disabilities involved in victim assistance issues along with the Mine Action Centre, the Directorate for the Integration of Victims Persons with Disabilities, the National Centre for Equipment and Rehabilitation and Humanity & Inclusion to follow up the implementation of the victim assistance action plan, but the action plan had remained invalidated.
10. The Committee welcomes information on Chad's efforts to include mine victims in victim assistance activities and other relevant programmes and forums, such as disability policies and programmes.

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

11. The Committee observed that Chad had not reported any efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other forms of barriers, and activities to raise awareness on the rights of mine victims, in an age and gender-sensitive manner, and would welcome information on these matters.

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

12. The Committee encourages Chad to report on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of the rights of mine victims, remaining challenges and priorities to achieve the objectives of Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, ahead of the 2019 Review Conference.