

**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 Senegal**

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Senegal 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 Senegal reported one accident in 2017, which had caused three casualties, and increased the total number of mine victims to 829, of which 593 have been injured and 236 have been killed. No casualty was reported in 2016, and one casualty was reported in 2015. 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 Senegal was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 12, by reporting as follows:
  - a. CNAMS continued collecting data on mine victims, in collaboration with its partners including, local associations, NGOs and armed forces, and;
  - b. Information collected includes identification of victims and their needs, such as their rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration needs. These efforts are expected to facilitate the free access of victims to physical rehabilitation, mental health and socio-economic integration;
4. The Committee welcomes additional information on efforts to assess the needs of all victims and the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialized services, disaggregated by sex and age.

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

5. The Committee observed that Senegal reported on the existence of a National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance (PANAV), and that it has been used as a reference document between CNAMS and health service providers to facilitate medical supports to mine victims and would welcome an electronic copy of the Action Plan.

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

6. The Committee observed that Senegal reported on enhancements in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, as follows:
  - a. Health assistance systems for people with disabilities is set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Action including a national social welfare service established and social workers appointed to hospitals and an equal opportunities card provided to people with disabilities, including mine victims, ensuring their right to free access to various services including health care. The card has been made available and distributed in the mine-

affected regions. Senegal further reported that its armed forces play an important role in providing emergency relief to mine victims.

7. The Committee welcomes additional information including on the allocated budget for the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks in Senegal.

**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)**

8. The Committee observed that Senegal is acting upon its commitments contained under Action 15 in relation to the availability of and accessibility to services, by indicating that support for mobility is fundamental for the socio-economic integration of victims of mines and by reporting the followings:
  - a. Maintenance of capacity within the regional hospitals in mine-affected regions of Ziguinchor, Kolda and Sedhiou, to ensure availability of free emergency relief support, subsequent medical care and assistive products for mine victims;
  - b. Maintenance of three departmental health centres in Oussouye, Bignona and Goudomp, to continue responding to the needs of mine victims in affected areas by providing free care and prescribed drugs to mine victims. In 2017, 34 mine survivors with prescriptions benefited from free health and drug assistance. These forms of assistance are regulated by bilateral agreements signed between the CNAMS and health centres, which have been approved under the National Plan of Action for Victim Assistance or PANAV;
  - c. A National Community Based Rehabilitation Program (PNRBC) is in the process of being validated;
  - d. In last two years, 85 mine victims in Senegal were provided with prostheses by a Rehabilitation Center of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, in partnership with the ICRC. Almost the entire target was able to benefit from new equipment. This project will continue in 2018, and it continues to serve as an example of South-South cooperation between two States Parties to the Convention, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, and;
  - e. A psychiatric centre in Ziguinchor continued providing free assistance to mine victims with psychological disorders. In addition, mine victim-students benefit from psychological support through the Academic Center for Educational and Vocational Guidance (CAOSP).
9. The Committee welcomes these reports disaggregated by sex- and age in accordance with Actions 12 and 15.

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

10. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on efforts to increase local capacities and enhance national or sub-national coordination for the implementation of victim assistance, and would welcome information on these matters.

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

11. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on efforts concerning the inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organisations as required under Actions 13 and 16, and welcomes information on these matters.

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

12. The Committee observed that Senegal had not reported on specific efforts to remove physical, behavioural or other types of barriers, efforts to expand quality services in rural and

remote areas, 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)**

13. The Committee observed that Senegal reported measurable improvements, particularly as related to health care and rehabilitation of mine victims, and enhancement of victim assistance to mainstream mechanisms, such as social welfare and health, and it would welcome information on the remaining challenges and priorities to achieve Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan in lead up to the upcoming Review Conference of the Convention.
14. The Committee observed that Senegal reported that in order to ensure a more sustainable programme for mine victims, its victim assistance programme is in need of cooperation and assistance.