

**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 Sudan

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Sudan 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 Sudan reported a total of 2,101 mines and explosive remnants of war victims, with 1,498 injured and 603 killed which demonstrates 42 more victims registered in 2017. The report, however, also stated that since the beginning of the programme, there are a total of 2,089 mines and explosive remnants of war victims in Sudan, the Committee welcomes a clarification on this discrepancy, and would also welcome information, disaggregated by sex and age, on the registered victims.

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

3. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on Action 12, and encourages Sudan to report on assessment of the needs of mine victims, 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 Sudan reported on the existence of a Victim Assistance Strategy valid until 2019, and welcomes an electronic copy of the Strategy.

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

5. The Committee observed that Sudan 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 Sudan to report 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 Sudan was implementing aspects of Action 15 to increase the availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services and socio-economic opportunities, as follows:
 - a. AAR Japan in collaboration with Friends Of Peace & Development Organization (FPDO), have assisted 60 mine victims by providing assistive devices, supports for socio-economic inclusion, income generation and psychosocial aid in Kassala, an eastern state in Sudan;

- b. FPDO implemented victim assistance project to advance socio-economic, integration of 20 beneficiaries including by providing them with assistive devices and psychosocial support, with funding provided by Italy;
 - c. JASMAR, an NGO, with support provided by USAID is currently implementing projects in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, to assist 88 beneficiaries in terms of psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, socio-economic and income generation and to support to 50 victims and their families through health insurance service, and;
 - d. NMUMAD has assisted 20 beneficiaries in North Darfur state to advance their socio-economic integration, funded by UNAMID-ODO.
7. The Committee welcomes this information, disaggregated by sex and age, and additional information on efforts increasing access to mainstream and specialised services in Sudan.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. The Committee observed that Sudan had not reported on efforts to build local capacities or enhance coordination, and welcomes information on these matters.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)

9. The Committee observed that Sudan 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)

10. The Committee observed that Sudan reported activities, including two workshops that were held to raise awareness on, and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and welcomes additional information on efforts that help to remove barriers, including through expanding quality services in remote areas where mine victims live.

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

11. The Committee observed that Sudan reported on assistance provided to mine victims and persons with disabilities and welcomes additional information on measurable improvements in the lives of mine victims and also information on remaining challenges and priorities in victim assistance, to achieve the victim assistance commitments of the Maputo Action Plan, in advance of the next Review Conference.