

Thematic discussion on victim assistance 23 May

The goal of a landmine free world does not diminish states' obligations and commitments to fulfilling the rights of landmine victims. Nor can we speak of "completion" when it comes to victim assistance the same way we can for some other obligations of the Convention such as mine clearance and stockpile destruction. Instead, the focus must be on taking the necessary measures to ensure that assistance is made available, appropriate, and sustainable and that the rights of victims are upheld and protected.

As stated in the Maputo Action Plan, "*states are committed to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society*". Furthermore, the Maputo Action Plan calls on the inclusion and integration of victim assistance into "*broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction*". The goal of the thematic discussion will be to discuss relevant developments that could inform the Oslo Action Plan relating to victim assistance.

Format and purpose

The thematic discussions intend to inform and provide impetus towards the development of a strong Oslo Action Plan. Each thematic discussion will be chaired by the President and will rely on a panel of presenters to frame the issue from their perspective through short presentations. The floor will then be open for all participants to share their views and ideas for the development of the Oslo Action

Presenters

Humanity and Inclusion (HI)
ICBL
Committee on Victim Assistance
AP Mine Ban Convention ISU

Question for discussion

- What progress is made on victim assistance, and what are the remaining challenges?
- What do we want to commit to achieving the next five years, and how can we make progress on victim assistance equal to other areas of mine action?
- What measures should be included in the Oslo Action Plan? How could assistance pillars such as health care and economic inclusion be recognized in the Oslo Action Plan in relation with relevant objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- What steps can be taken by the mine action sector in affected and donor states to ensure victim assistance is integrated in broader humanitarian, human rights and development frameworks related to health, including mental health & rehabilitation, disability, education, work & employment and social protection?
- What can we do to better tailor victim assistance to the unique needs of different groups (ie. age- and gender relevance)?