

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
(Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy)**

**Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019**

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Nicaragua**

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Nicaragua of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2018 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 Nicaragua did not report on the number mine survivors and welcomes age- and gender-disaggregated information in this regard.

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

3. The Committee observed that Nicaragua recognises its responsibility to mine victims and for this reason continue to include mine victims in a national programme known as “Todos con Voz” enabling them to have a voice and express themselves for the respect and fulfilment of their rights.
4. The Committee observed that Nicaragua reported on the identification of 126,316 persons with disabilities, with 51% women with disabilities and 49% men with disabilities and would welcome further disaggregated information concerning the numbers of mine survivors, as well as information on assessments of needs, the availability of gaps in services according to Action 12 of the Maputo Action Plan.

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

5. The Committee observed that Nicaragua implements a national plan that facilitates the provision of comprehensive assistance to persons with disabilities at the national level, and would welcome receiving a copy of the national plan.

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

6. The Committee observed that Nicaragua reported that in line with the country’s National Human Development Plan, it promoted actions to increase the availability of and access to appropriate rehabilitation services, economic opportunities and social protection for all mine victims and that it has also promoted policies to eliminate all types of physical, social, cultural, economic, political, and other barriers in order to guarantee their reintegration into society.
7. The Committee would welcome information on the results of such efforts on mine victims and persons with disabilities, including information on budgets allocated for the implementation of

relevant aspects of the National Human Development Plan and other relevant integrated policies and plans.

**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 Nicaragua is acting upon its commitments under action 15 as concerned rehabilitation, by reporting the followings:
  - a. Availability of physiotherapy assistance at centres providing health and rehabilitation services;
  - b. A hospital specialized in rehabilitation, the Aldo Chavarria Hospital;
  - c. A national referral hospital, the Antonio Lenin Fonseca Hospital;
  - d. A Centre for the Production of Prosthesis, Orthotics and Other Technical Aids, located in Managua, Esteli and Puerto Cabezas;
  - e. And the provision of wheelchairs and mobility devices through the “Todos con Voz” programme.
9. The Committee would welcome information disaggregated by age and gender on numbers of mine victims benefited from the rehabilitation assistance and disaggregated information on progress in areas of socio-economic inclusion and social protection.

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

10. The Committee observed that Nicaragua did not report on action 15 and it would welcome information on efforts that strengthen local capacities and enhanced coordination of programmes related to mine victims.

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

11. The Committee observed that Nicaragua did not report on action 16 and it would welcome information on efforts to ensure inclusion and participation of mine victims into relevant programmes and policies and society.

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

12. The Committee observed that Nicaragua did not report on actions 15 and 17 and it would welcome information on efforts to remove environmental, behavioural or other forms of barriers and to increase awareness on the rights and needs of mine victims.

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

13. The Committee encourages Nicaragua to report on remaining challenges in victim assistance and priorities to achieve the objectives of actions #12 to #18 of the Maputo Action Plan, in advance of the Convention’s Fourth Review Conference to take place in November 2019.