

**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 Yemen

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Yemen 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 Yemen reported 2,359 mine/ERW victims including 551 in 2016, 721 in 2017 and 1,087 in 2018 with 2,169 of casualties being male and 188 female in provinces of Aden, Abyan, Taiz, Shabwah, Lahij, Hadramout, Al Jawf, Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah and Marib, while acknowledging that the total number of mine victims are higher since much remains unreported and unrecorded.
3. The Committee would welcome further information on casualties such as statistics on children and the number of injured versus killed.

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

4. The Committee observed that Yemen reported that YEMAC has been conducting a survey to collect information about every victim including information on their needs, to be followed by the provision of tangible support to address their medical and physical rehabilitation needs as reported in 2017.
5. The Committee encourages Yemen to increase efforts in assessing the availability and gaps in mainstream and specialised services.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

6. The Committee observed that Yemen did not report on action 13 and would welcome information on time-bound and measurable plans to achieve the objectives of victim assistance.

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

7. The Committee observed that Yemen reported that previously victim assistance was included in the mandates of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs which in conjunction with Yemen prosthetics centre and international NGOs, have provided assistance to mine victims, but the report does not specify the current activities of the two ministries on victim assistance.

8. The Committee would welcome further information on the current role of the two ministries with regards to victim assistance and information on other efforts that have enhanced the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks as required by the action 14.

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)

9. The Committee observed that Yemen has been making efforts by increasing the number of trained social workers in the framework of YEMAC's Community Based Rehabilitation to increase assistance to mine victims and would welcome further information -- disaggregated by sex- and age -- on the number of mine victims that have benefited from the Community Based Rehabilitation and other social and economic assistance.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

10. The Committee observed that Yemen did not report any progress in strengthening national capacity and coordination and encourages Yemen to share information in this regard.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

11. The Committee observed that Yemen did not report on action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan and encourages Yemen to share information in this regard.

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

12. The Committee observed that Yemen did not report on efforts that remove physical, attitudinal or communications barriers and to raise awareness on the rights and needs of mine victims and encourages Yemen to share information in this regard.

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

13. The Committee observed that Yemen did not report measurable improvements in assisting mine victims and that the report states challenges such as ongoing conflict, lack of resources, occurrences of large casualties and lack of comprehensive surveillance system to record and report casualties, face the victim assistance programme of the country.
14. The Committee encourages Yemen to increase efforts to meet the above-mentioned challenges including by stepping up emergency and medical care assistance to protect the survivors, affected families and communities.