

**ICBL Comments and Questions on Progress Reports
MBT InteseSSIONal Standing Committee Meetings
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance
23 May 2012**



Afghanistan

We thank Afghanistan for their clear statement on progress and challenges and in particular updates on efforts to establish a new victim assistance plan. We would like to ask if Afghanistan might also be able to comment on the need to change the current version of the Law on Persons with Disabilities, which in its present form is discriminatory.

Albania

Following on to important efforts that have been made to increase the availability and accessibility to physical rehabilitation for mine survivors, there remains an important opportunity to continue supporting efforts to assist mine survivors as a clear signal that such support remains a priority for the international community even after clearance has been completed.

Sudan

We are interested in hearing more about psychological support and in particular, peer support as a methodology for this. Could the delegation say something about this?

Peru

We have heard a great deal about the challenges faced by survivors and other persons with disabilities in Peru who are living in rural and remote areas. The Pilot project in Tumbes you mention seems promising. I understand Contraminas has also had some experience working with survivors in remote areas. Have there been efforts to learn from these experiences?

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Ethiopia:

Thanks very much for the very positive updates on the planning, coordination, data collection and integration of issues of mine survivors into the disability program, in cooperation with ICBL. We would like to ask if you could elaborate on what the government is doing to ensure that those NGOs whose funding comes from national sources will continue to enhance the overall program for persons with disabilities, including mine survivors

Iraq:

It is refreshing to hear about the important progress on the mine victim survey. Iraq also mentioned that there is a need to develop a national VA plan. We would like to ask if there are efforts underway to

strengthen inter-ministerial coordination to ensure the effective development and implementation of such a plan?

Senegal

How to ensure there are sufficient national or international resources to enable continued access to victim assistance services, particularly physical rehabilitation services?

Serbia

It is a very positive development that you report that coordination with civil society organizations and representatives of survivors organizations has increased in general and will be continued in the development of a national victim assistance plan. You also mention that there is a need to increase the capacity to professionalize all stakeholders involved in such collaboration. Do the relevant ministries of the Serbian government have concrete plans in place or efforts yet underway to ensure the effective participation of such stakeholders in the plan development process?

Chad

We offer our congratulations to Chad for the approval of their victim assistance plan today. We really look forward to hearing at the 12 MSP what progress Chad will have made in implementing this plan with the support of the international community.

Uganda

Uganda mentioned the challenge related to the lack of disability-specific data. Has it been determined yet whether or not the government of Uganda will be able to use the national census next year as an opportunity to collect data on mine victims and all persons with disabilities, including children?

DRC

We look forward to hearing more from DRC tomorrow, during the small group session on victim assistance, regarding plans to address the need to establish psychological support and peer support, reinforce the coordination mechanism and introduce a monitoring mechanism, as mentioned.

Croatia

Following up on the comments of Croatia regarding regional cooperation, we would just like to remark that it is nice to hear so many say this, offering a positive solution which is more constructive than simply saying there is a lack of funding and technical capacity.