

Check against delivery

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

23-24 May 2012



Statement by AUSTRIA

Ms. Caroline Wörgötter

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Austria in Geneva

My delegation would like to congratulate and thank the Co-Chairs for their guidance and leadership on the issue of victim assistance as well as the ISU for their outstanding efforts.

We thank States Parties that have reported yesterday and today and commend their progress made in assisting victims and other persons with disability in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan – in partnership with various implementing partners that do indispensable work in this field.

We recognize the remaining challenges States are facing that have reported to have significant numbers of victims – challenges that we are facing collectively as States Parties of this Convention.

I would like to briefly make two observations in reflection of yesterday's discussion.

First, the concrete information that affected States have provided on the situation on the ground, their focus on achievements as well as challenges in how to address needs of victims adequately, on how to respond to remaining gaps and how to monitor progress, in our view is crucial not only to ensure effective implementation, but also to facilitate collaboration and to foster new partnerships with States Parties in a position to provide cooperation and assistance.

In this respect, we welcome the opportunity during the small group discussions on cooperation and assistance later today for an exchange on means other than financial means of assistance that could in our view provide additional opportunities for support in the area of victim assistance in times of scarce financial resources, including technical assistance and the exchange of expertise;

Second, in this session we have also heard from affected States on established practices of integrated national programmes that address the needs of survivors of landmines, cluster munitions, ERW and persons injured or disabled by other means. We commend these States for their efforts to ensure a comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach and very much support their policy line.

In my delegation's view, at the international level, we should likewise continue to further explore closer collaboration in the field of victim assistance across related international legal instruments such as the AP Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We encourage participants of this meeting continue to raise awareness about the connecting dots and cross-cutting issues among the mentioned Conventions, and to focus on areas in which coordination and collaboration could be enhanced to the benefit of survivors and persons with disabilities.

Thank you, Mme. Co-Chair.