

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

Making a difference on the ground: Monitoring progress and evaluating the
impact of victim assistance efforts

24 May 2012



Statement by AUSTRIA

Ms. Caroline Wörgötter

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Austria in Geneva

My delegation would like to thank the Co-Chairs for this opportunity for an exchange on the issue of measurability and the important question on how to ensure that activities undertaken in the field of victim assistance make a real difference for the lives of victims. This is equally an issue for affected countries as it is for donor countries.

We thank the Panelists for emphasizing in their presentations that a thorough understanding of the needs and expectations of victims at the community level is a crucial first step and a prerequisite for the formulation of policy objectives and concrete timelines as well as monitoring mechanisms for victim assistance measures to be effectively implemented.

Here, as the discussions during this week have demonstrated, a reality check is important. Victim assistance is based on a comprehensive approach, embedded in the broader framework of social and economic development. Sometimes we may need to be flexible when it comes to baselines and begin to work with what is available in terms of information, data and framework conditions at the national or community level. Here, a strong level of coordination and collaboration among key national and local stakeholders can prove very useful in order to bridge gaps and enable progress to be made. It is important to bear the broader socio-economic context in mind also when monitoring progress of implementation.

I would finally like to echo a point made by Margaret Arach Orech in her presentation and highlight the key role of survivors and the need for all of us to support survivors and enhance their opportunities to be fully involved in the process of policy making and implementation of measures of concern to them at all stages.

It is my delegation's hope that we continue address this issue also in future and to hear from partners such as Handicap International and others today and to share information and lessons learnt on how to measure progress in the field of victim assistance. As others mentioned before, this process involves a variety of stakeholders that have experience to share in this field, including from the health sector, development, the social sector and others.

Thank you very much.