

**ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION**

**MONITORING PROGRESS AND EVALUATING
THE IMPACT OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE EFFORTS**

**Statement by
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Thank you, Co-Chairs

Through my work over more than a decade, I have seen some of the challenges faced by affected States in monitoring their efforts to assist victims and survivors.

I have a suggestion to contribute to this discussion. But first I will share an extract from an official government report.

“...formal support is failing many people with disability, their families and carers. There are high levels of unmet need for disability services impacting heavily on persons with disabilities...

Because of limited reliable data, it is very difficult to determine the level of current unmet need for services for people with disability.

Government spending on disability services has not kept pace with rising need.

There are multiple problems with the current disability system, including:

- little useful information to allow a planned and coordinated approach;
- even if information were available, no mechanism for reporting it or making the system accountable; and
- poor monitoring of service providers with respect to both service delivery and outcomes.”¹

You may be wondering why I thought it necessary to repeat what we have heard from several affected States already.

This extract is not from a report prepared by a developing country. Rather it is about my own country – Australia. The report was prepared during consultations for the development of Australia’s National Disability Strategy 2010-2020. I am pleased to say that the challenges identified in the report have been addressed in the new strategy.

I think this example is relevant to our discussion today because it shows that affected States are not alone in some of the challenges they face. In this Convention there are 160 States Parties all with different experiences.

My suggestion is that at future meetings of this Standing Committee, any State that has taken positive steps to overcome challenges in the monitoring of their disability policies, strategies and plans – like Australia – could share those experiences in this forum.

Thank you

¹ *The Way Forward: A New Disability Policy Framework for Australia*, Report of the Disability Investment Group, Commonwealth of Australia, 2009.