



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**

CO-CHAIRS' NOTES TO MEETING PARTICIPANTS

3 - 7 February 2003

Introduction:

The work of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration has to date led to a general understanding of the parameters of the problem. Thanks to the dialogue that has taken place within the Standing Committee, the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention have a more precise sense of how they should apply themselves to the matter of fulfilling their responsibilities under Article 6.3:

- A commonly accepted definition of victims of anti-personnel mines has been identified;
- The notion of assistance has been more precisely outlined to include physical rehabilitation, first aid and medical care, psychological rehabilitation, economic reintegration, et cetera; and,
- It is now well understood that matters pertaining to landmine victims exists within the broader disability context, including the context of human rights as they pertain to persons with disabilities.

All these acquired concepts should be taken into consideration from this point onwards. In addition, our work can profit from the various tools that have already been made available. Thus, it is now important at this point that we provide the opportunity to mine affected States to be able to express, in operational terms, their current and future needs.

The Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration is in effect a unique forum which allows for both an exchange of experiences and an interaction between the needs expressed by mine affected States Parties and possibilities for technical and financial assistance expressed by others. The intention is that the Intersessional Work Programme in 2003 will see the possibility of hearing concrete plans of action from both mine affected States Parties as well as those in a position to offer assistance.

In addition, it has been shown to date that regional approaches could stimulate this process. Thus, this matter deserves our attention because it offers several dynamic possibilities.

The agenda for the meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration has been developed to focus on these topics, with one of the objectives being to allow for concrete and discussion in order to permit clear conclusions to be drawn. In the aim of assisting participants to contribute to this work, the Co-Chairs wish to highlight the following points:

- A questionnaire has been provided to suggest to mine affected States a framework for developing interventions regarding country situations. It provides general orientation to the matters that mine affected States Parties may most wish to highlight. That said, it is understood that States are free to structure their interventions in whatever way they wish.
- Participants are invited to consider ensuring that interventions made correspond with agenda items that are being discussed at any point in time. That said, there is enough generality in the agenda to ensure that it will be possible to find an appropriate place sometime during the meeting to make any desired intervention.

To assist the Co-Chairs in developing speakers lists for the points on the agenda, participants are invited to indicate their desire to speak in advance by contacting the Implementation Support Unit (email : k.brinkert@gicdh.ch ; fax : 41-22-906-1690 ; tel : 41-22-906-1637).

Agenda

Tuesday 4 February

10:00 Introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs

1 - Overview of the status of implementation

Before engaging in a discussion on specific actions and plans regarding victim assistance, the Co-Chairs will provide a brief overview of the status of implementation, with the support of non-governmental partners.

2 - National updates on implementation

With the aim of learning, in concrete terms, the difficulty faced mine affected States, the floor will be given to these parties to permit them to share their national experiences.

13:00 Break for lunch.

15:00 Introduction of the participants of the *Raising the Voices* initiative.

3. - Exchange of views on regional efforts

Further to the recommendations contained in the 2001-2002 final report of the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs have scheduled an exchange of views on the topic of regional approaches being undertaken to support the efforts of States in fulfilling their national obligations.

4 - Reflections on funding sustainability

With a view to ensuring implementation of victim assistance efforts, it is necessary to reflect upon the sustainability of financing. This session will also be the opportunity for donors to present their projects and to discuss the need to ensure full coordination with respect to available mechanisms.

5 - Maximizing the Standing Committee as a vehicle for cooperation and assistance

In a manner consistent with the 2001-2002 final report of the Standing Committee, it would be important to have a general discussion on the participation of the full range of relevant actors in the work of the Standing Committee.

17:20 Co-Chairs' closing remarks

18:00 Meeting ends.