



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**

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**Co-Chairs' suggestions on ways to prepare for the 10 February Standing Committee meeting\***

**Introduction**

The Fifth Meeting of the States Parties called upon mine-affected States to provide for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of landmine victims. In addition, it called upon all other actors to assist the efforts of these States. During the 2003-2004 Intersessional Work Programme, the Co-Chairs request all relevant actors to maximize the potential of the Standing Committee by providing updates on these matters.

**Updates from relevant States Parties on the status of implementation**

The work of the Standing Committee in 2002-2003 succeeded in placing a greater emphasis on the voices of the mine-affected States parties in the work of the Committee. However, with only one year before the Convention's First Review Conference, much more needs to be done. In order for the States Parties at the Review Conference to assess progress in the pursuit of their wish "to do their utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration of mine victims", it is essential that the mine-affected States Parties themselves communicate how they define their challenges and hence how they will measure progress.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *Relevant States Parties may wish to make use of the suggested framework that has been developed to prepare presentations on their problems, plans, progress and priorities for assistance.*

**Regional victim assistance efforts**

In 2002-2003, it became apparent that regional initiatives can play an extremely valuable role in assisting individual States Parties in meeting their obligations. To build upon this, the Co-Chairs encourage additional regional efforts to be undertaken with a view to enabling States Parties with similar challenges to share ideas and experiences, and develop joint strategies and initiatives.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *Those involved in supporting and / or organizing regional victim assistance efforts may wish to prepare brief updates on activities undertaken since the last meeting of the Standing Committee.*

**Updates regarding assistance and cooperation**

It is clear that the Convention implies that international cooperation and assistance will play a leading role in assisting the States parties in fulfilling their obligations. Many States Parties "in a position to do so", as well as numerous international and non-governmental organizations, have communicated that they are indeed providing necessary assistance and support – either through targeted victim assistance programmes or through broader programming to support the health-care and rehabilitation services or human rights frameworks in mine-affected States. In 2003-2004, the Co-Chairs would be grateful if States Parties and organizations "in a position to do so" continue to make use of the Standing Committee to share information on their particular approaches to ensuring that resources are provided to support those States that need assistance.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *States Parties and organizations may wish to prepare brief updates on their approaches to ensuring that support is provided to those States that need assistance in the care and rehabilitation of landmine survivors.*
- *States Parties that do not have specific funding mechanisms for victim assistance may wish to highlight other ways they support programmes that would benefit landmine survivors (or persons with disabilities generally) in countries that require assistance.*

### **Thematic matters pertaining to victim assistance**

Based upon the interest expressed at previous meetings of the Standing Committee, it is clear that some thematic victim assistance matters warrant our attention prior to the First Review Conference. These topics include economic reintegration, enhancing cooperation between providers of prosthetics and orthopedic services and physical accessibility.

*Suggestions on ways to prepare:*

- *The Co-Chairs would be grateful if those States Parties and organizations involved in specific economic reintegration initiatives could share their successes, good ideas and lessons learned.*
- *Organizations involved in enhancing cooperation between providers of prosthetics and orthopedic services may wish to provide updates on their efforts.*
- *Interested actors may wish to share ideas regarding physical accessibility, including ensuring that best practices in this area are promoted for use during activities related to the Convention.*

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\* This document merely contains suggestions regarding ways to maximize opportunities for participation presented by the Standing Committee. It is well understood that all Standing Committee participants – States Parties, States not parties and organizations – are free to intervene on any agenda item in any manner they wish.