

SUMMARY OUTCOMES FROM THE PLANNING WORKSHOP OF SCVA  
THAT TOOK PLACE IN  
OTTAWA, CANADA, OCTOBER 29-30, 2001

The next item on the agenda is to report in to you on an activity that was held in the fall to discuss ways to promote the ongoing effectiveness of the Standing Committee.

In October, Canada in cooperation with our Co-Chair from Honduras, invited a small group of interested parties to Ottawa to provide the Co-Chairs on ideas on ways to plan for the 2001-2002 Intersessional Programme.

The Standing Committee on Victim Assistance is unique in that the Convention obligation that is relevant to the Committee is not as clearly articulated as other Convention obligation, nor is it time-bound but rather exists for as long as there are landmine survivors.

Moreover, what we call "victim assistance" is something that is a part of long-standing and well-established fields like health care and human rights.

Our challenge essentially is the following: How can we best use this mechanism that we have at our disposal - the Intersessional Programme - to make contribution to the responsibility of States to assist in the care and rehabilitation of landmine survivors?

And it was essentially this question that guided the workshop in Ottawa.

Some of the outcomes of this workshop were as follows:

- That there is clear understanding that the victim assistance needs of affected states must be expressed by those states themselves and particular attention should be given to the needs expressed to survivors within those states.
- That a bottom-up process is essential and that priority-setting must come from within affected states.
- That in addition to these points, other common understandings have come to take hold over the past few years, like those covered by Cecilia in her presentation.
- That while these understandings are apparent, what remains is the challenge to better identify how the Standing Committee can make a contribution to the responsibilities of States.
- That what is required is a planning tool which could give the Standing Committee greater direction in identifying how it could make this contribution.
- And that at the suggestion of the Landmine Survivors Network and with the

support of the Co-Chairs, UNMAS was asked to coordinate a consultative process that could lead to ideas related to new opportunities for the Standing Committee.

To explain this consultative process in more detail, I would now like to call upon UNMAS Chief, Mr. Martin Barber, to take the floor.