

**Note for Canadian Statement at the Special Session on Cooperation and Assistance – June 25, 2010**

**Meetings of the Standing Committees – Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

- Thank you, Ms Chairperson for the excellent discussion paper presented by Norway on “Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance as concerns Victim Assistance”.
- I am pleased to say a few remarks on the discussion paper and will focus in particular on the “questions for consideration to enhance international cooperation and assistance in relation to victim assistance-related efforts.”

**How can we gain greater clarity regarding the true magnitude of the effort being made to assist States Parties that are responsible for significant numbers of landline victims in developing the responses necessary to meet the needs of all individuals who are injured and who live with disabilities?**

- Ms. Chairperson, it is well-known that international support for victim assistance comes through a variety of governmental, non-governmental, and quasi-governmental channels.
- In order to obtain greater clarity about the magnitude of this effort, it may be worth considering aggregating the resources at the level of the recipient state, rather than the contributors of assistance.
- Given that recipient states are ultimately responsible for the assistance of victims, analyzing the amount of support that they receive and national resources that they invest may be more useful when it comes to facilitating in-country coordination.

**What is the role (and extent of the role) of the AP Mine Ban Convention in addressing what amounts to a profound set of challenges to overcome in many countries?**

- The mine ban convention serves to focus attention on the serious human problems caused by landmines and on the needs and rights of mine victims.
- Partly as a result of the exclusion from social and political life that mine victims often suffer from, inadequate attention is often paid to this easily-marginalized group.
- The Convention must serve as a strong impetus for States to take concerted and individual actions to realize the rights and serve the needs of mine victims.

**What is expected of affected States in terms of "national ownership" as concerns victim assistance?**

- Ms. Chairperson, in exercising national ownership, affected states must take a central role in coordinating governmental and nongovernmental actions, as well as their own national efforts and international cooperation towards victim assistance.
- From our perspective, national ownership involves serious engagement on the part of affected state leadership, both in coordinating policy and resource mobilisation domestically and in interacting with the international community.

**How can States Parties ensure coherence in acting upon the cooperation and assistance provisions of both Conventions?**

- Finally Ms. Chairperson, there is a need for coordination on the level of the contributing state to ensure that efforts by different agencies are consistent, synergistic and mutually reinforcing.
- Coordination must be within countries, inter-ministerial as well as international. States should work together to maximize the combined

effectiveness of assistance efforts.

- It is also relevant to consider that multilateral and bilateral actions and initiatives might be supplemented by plurilateral cooperation among groups of interested states.
- Thank you Ms. Chairperson.