

**Ottawa Convention Intersessional  
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance  
12 – 16 May 2003, Geneva  
Statement by Hine-Wai Loose, Second Secretary**

We would like to thank the Co-Chairs for the questions that they posed to donor countries at this year's first intersessional regarding victim assistance. The questions were effective in focusing us on victim assistance and how we respond to that issue.

New Zealand's support for the Ottawa Convention's objectives has centred on mine clearance and the provision of personnel for carrying out that task. We however recognise that while mine clearance programmes have a definite end victim assistance in an on-going issue that requires long-term solutions.

The New Zealand aid agency, otherwise known as NZAID, approach to victim assistance is based squarely on partnership with the donee country. NZAID responds to partner-government priorities when deciding whether to direct funds to victim assistance. For example victim assistance was identified as a priority in our work with Cambodia. In that case funding was directed to a School of Prosthetics, Orthotics and Rehabilitation Craft. In other cases New Zealand's funding for victim assistance is provided as a bilateral contribution through the mechanism of UN trust funds or is a component of broader funding.

Finally Mr Chairman, we thank those mine-affected countries that made presentations this morning. It was very heartening to hear of the number of agencies involved and the integrated approach that is being taken to victim assistance in those countries, however, it did serve to remind us of the on-going nature of this issue.

Thank you Mr Chairman.