

**Notes for ICRC intervention to the  
10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties**

**Victim Assistance**

**Wednesday, 1 December 2010**

Thank you Mr. President,

First, the ICRC would like to thank the countries that provided an update on their Victim Assistance activities and progress today. As mentioned by the ICRC President during the opening ceremony, we are now at a point in the life of the convention, where not only meetings are important, but more actual implementation is essential, in particular in the field of victim assistance.

One year after the Second review Conference, held in Cartagena, we are still waiting for more concrete actions from all States Parties to this convention to ensure that survivors, their families and their communities, see concrete and tangible improvement in their lives. From the affected States, at least from the 26 States which have a significant number of survivors, we need a stronger commitment and ownership, particularly regarding the implementation of Action points 23 to 33 of the Cartagena Action Plan. While all action points are important, we believe that Action Point 24 on the establishment of a coordination mechanism and Action Point 27 on the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan of action should receive particular attention from States and be implemented as soon as possible. They are the foundations of a proper implementation of all other action points and will ensure that services can be delivered to survivors and can be monitored.

From States Parties in a position to assist, we need to see more resources mobilised to ensure that the situation of mine survivors in all affected countries improves as stated in Action 39 of the Cartagena Action Plan.

Next year the next Meeting of States Parties is expected to take place in Cambodia. We hope that Victim Assistance will remain the chosen focus of the meeting. Even if the life of survivors and communities in Cambodia has improved immensely in the last 10 years, Cambodia still faces many challenges linked to the legacy of landmines.

Mr President,

The ICRC will continue its global work of providing direct support to survivors and their families to ensure that they have access to appropriate services and will continue supporting the development of national capacities in the provision and management of services for survivors and other persons with disabilities.

In addition, the ICRC will continue to work closely with the affected States, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, with the ISU, and with other supporting organizations to promote the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan. In this regard, we are pleased that our proposal to hold more in-depth discussion of national contexts and challenges have been included, to some extent, in the Norwegian President's paper on the review of the Intersessional Work programme. We stand ready to support the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and the ISU to organize, as a pilot project at the 2011 Standing Committee meeting, smaller and more focussed informal sessions with the aim of overcoming challenges in specific national contexts. We would like to thank the States Parties that indicated last June that they would be ready to take part of this pilot project and we stand ready to support them in their effort.