

Austria and Colombia are very pleased to jointly undertake the role as Co-Chairs on Victim Assistance for the next year.

We aim at ensuring continuity in terms of the great work undertaken by Algeria and Croatia, as supported by the ISU, in furthering the effective implementation of the victim assistance obligations in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan and in addressing the major challenges in terms of ensuring the rights and addressing the needs of survivors, affected families and communities.

We have been listening with concern to the information revealed on a general trend of decreasing international financial assistance for victim assistance and we see a need to continue to address this issue.

We look forward to carrying out our role as Co-Chairs in close cooperation with the whole AP Mine Ban community. We strongly count and rely on the partnership with civil society, in particular the expertise from survivors and survivor networks.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission I would like to hand over to my colleague from Colombia to introduce a particular issue of priority for the Co-Chairs. Thank you.