



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
ANTI – PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION
THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATE PARTIES
STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT, VETERANS
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIJA – VICTIM ASSISTANCE
1st December 2015

Mr.President,

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to the implementation of all of its obligations under the Ottawa Convention including the victim assistance in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan and the preceding Cartagena Action Plan.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia is in charge of ensuring protection, rights and financial support to disabled civilian veterans, family members of disabled civilian veterans and family members of civilian war victims. The Ministry is also in charge for victim assistance.

The number of civilian disabled veterans totals 1,265 out of which 899 men and 366 women.

The Government adopted in 2015 the Decision on establishment of the Intersectional Working group on application of the Ottawa Convention, which includes representatives of this Ministry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mine action Centre of the Republic of Serbia.

The purpose of the Working Group for Victims Assistance is to monitor the progress made in providing assistance to victims within national plans and legal framework.

The Working Group is dealing with the following:

- Proposing measures to enhance the position of the Anti – personal mine victims;
- Proposing measures to enhance the legislative framework for the protection of the anti-personal mine victims;
- Monitoring alignment with the applicable legislation regulating the protection of the APM victims with international legislation and national law;
- Proposing special programmes and measures to promote and make the APM victims capable for public life;
- Cooperation with the association of the APM victims and civil society organizations involved in enhancement of the position of the APM victims;

- Cooperation with relevant institutions from abroad, international organizations and national working groups of the equivalent or similar profile with view to experience and good practice sharing;
- Monitoring progress regarding the provision of assistance to the APM victims within wider national plans and legal framework;
- Mapping all the existing services;

When the Intersectional Working group was established it was agreed that there should be stronger coordination between victims and relevant authorities. It is further decided to ensure more intensive media engagement, holding of education sessions, conferences, and create a central database which would include the causes of injuries. As certain data exist in a number of national institutions, the research project needs to take this into account. With the assistance of local governments, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs plans to compile the data on accurate causes of wounds, traumas, and lesions of civilians disabled in war.

The Working Group has suggested the Government of Serbia's Coordinating Body for Gender Equality responsible for the supervision over the drafting of the National Action plan to implement UN Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security to include the provision of support to women survivors of anti-personnel mines in the referred to Action Plan 2016-20 that is underway, under its component "Provision of Support to Victims of Armed Conflicts".

All municipalities in Serbia have services for the protection of veterans and the disabled that can be contacted by disabled civilian veterans for specific types of assistance. In remote rural areas, there are social protection services designed to extend quality assistance in the field of social welfare.

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the status of persons with Disabilities 2007-2015 is in force. The Strategy recognizes their equal rights with those of other disabled persons (the rights of disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans).