

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

16 TO 20 NOVEMBER 2020

Committee on Victim Assistance

Tuesday 17 November

Agenda item: 9. Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

- a) Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance**

Closing remarks by the Chair

1. Excellencies, dear colleagues, I would like to thank all of the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities, and all other States Parties for providing updates on your achievements, challenges as well as your commitments to do more, to support empowering mine survivors.
2. Before concluding my remarks, I wish to stress on the two following subjects:
 - a) The Committee has been mandated to support States Parties in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance and to balance ongoing discussion on pertinent aspects of victim assistance within the framework of the convention itself and taking the discussion on meeting the needs and guaranteeing the rights of mine victims to other fora where relevant and related issues are debated. I believe we have furthered this purpose, but much remains to be done.
 - b) The documents we have produced for this meeting can help us begin to better track our progress in all areas. Together with improved reporting and increased dialogue, we can continue to chip away at the obstacles and barriers that for too long have stood in the way of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors. All the data provided is based on the latest information provided by the States Parties that implement VA. We would ask all States to look closely at these documents and please provide any updates or additional information you may have to the Committee through the ISU.

- c) The Committee observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on overall activities of all of us, including the submission of transparency reports this year. With the hope that the situation will improve in the near future, the Committee would like to encourage all the States Parties with VA responsibilities to include information on in their Article 7 Report.
3. That being said, Italy's membership to the Committee on Victim Assistance is come to an end this time. It has been a true honour for my Country and for myself to Chair the Committee and once again let me take this opportunity to thank Chile, Sweden and Thailand – with the precious support of the ISU and in cooperation with the observers in the Committee – for the intense work we have conducted together, even in such difficult circumstances. I wish all the best to Thailand, Sweden, Ecuador and Algeria with their work as members of the Committee over the next 12 months.
4. [The end of victim assistance session.]