

SUISSE

**Final Declaration out-going Co-Chair of the SC-VA, Switzerland  
Afghanistan. 20 September 2006**

Madame la Presidente,

On behalf of the out-going Co-Chairs, Switzerland and Afghanistan, will continue to use the existing platforms (such as the Intersessionals, MSTP Conference, ICBL, MASG, GIEHD as well as the diplomatic missions in Geneva) to advocate for increased attention and resources from State Parties to address the plight of mines victims. ~~We~~ will in particular make reference to Action #36 of the Nairobi Action Plan and recommend that State Parties in a position to do so “act upon their obligation under Article 6 (3) to promptly assist those States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support (...), responding to priorities for assistance as articulated by those States Parties in need (...).”

In their advocacy efforts, Switzerland and Afghanistan will also plead for the promotion of Victim Assistance in the States which are not Parties to the Convention but suffer a considerable problem of mine victims as well as in the territories controlled by non-state actors.

Furthermore, Switzerland and Afghanistan will advocate for increased awareness on pursuing gender mainstreaming and gender equity based on need in victim assistance programmes.

In consultation with the in-coming Co-Chair of the Standing Committee for Victim Assistance (Austria and Sudan) and the main stakeholders of Victim Assistance, especially mine victims and experts from mine-affected countries,

we will continue to pursue their objectives till the next Review Conference in 2009.

In particular, the out-going Co-Chairs would like to recommend the Donor Countries in a position to do so, to fund the third phase of the employment by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of a victim assistance specialist tasked with facilitating the effort of the 24 relevant States Parties towards the establishment of SMART national objectives and the development of national plans. Furthermore, as was presented by Afghanistan, in order to obtain high-quality results it is imperative to have an efficient inter-ministerial coordination.

Concerning the second objective of the out-going Co-Chairs the *Promotion of access of and quality of the first medical care* it is an utmost to follow up the dissemination and the communication strategy in the 24 most affected countries of the *First Aid leaflet* distributed yesterday by the Swiss Afghan Co-Chairs.

Finally, we were very pleased to hear from the various declarations on the status of the implementation of the victim assistance in the most affected countries, that the socio-economic reintegration and the psychological follow up elements were taken into consideration and improved in most of the countries.

As pointed out in many declarations it will be important to establish a clear and effective link between the victim assistance and the new International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including particularly their inclusion in the development agendas.

Let me take this opportunity to wish a fruitful mandate to the incoming Co-Chairs, our colleagues from Austria and Sudan

I thank you for your attention