

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC
REINTEGRATION, GENEVA, 28 JANUARY 2002**

**Statement by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
Presented by Mr. Martin Barber, Chief, UNMAS**

Madam Co-Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), I would like to thank the Co-chairs to the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-economic Reintegration, as well as the ICBL Working Group on Victim Assistance, for asking us to facilitate a consultative process to identify new opportunities for the Standing Committee. It is with great pleasure that we are prepared to accept this responsibility.
- I would like to briefly outline the consultative process we have in mind. But first, I would like to commend the Standing Committee for the progress it has achieved so far. The field of victim assistance is vast and difficult, with a broad diversity of relevant actors, and linkages to other areas such as health, human rights and socio-economic development. Nonetheless, as we heard in Cecilia Sanchez' useful list of achievements, the Standing Committee has been able to provide a common definition of 'landmine victims' and 'victim assistance', and to determine the relationship of victim assistance with broader health care and disability contexts. The Standing Committee has also taken the lead in promoting best practice issues.
- Yet of course, much more remains to be accomplished, and UNMAS wishes to support this ongoing work of the Standing. Through a consultative process, we believe we can conduct the preliminary work necessary to assist the Committee to identify potential areas in which it can make a meaningful contribution towards the implementation of Article 6.3 of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. This consultative process, however, would be only a first step. It will help to identify a menu of options, but it will be up to States Parties to decide the areas in which they would like to concentrate their efforts.
- More specifically, through this consultative process we could set out to identify, as foreseen in the explanatory Note:
 - Critical issues related to the obligation to provide assistance to landmine survivors;
 - Specific targets for addressing these issues, keeping in mind important milestones such as the 2004 Review Conference;

- Actions that could be taken to proceed towards these targets; and
 - The particular contributions that the Standing Committee could make with respect to the various targets and actions.
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- UNMAS is prepared to facilitate this process, but its success will depend on close cooperation with, and constant input from the Co-chairs and Co-rapporteurs, and with various partners, including but not limited to WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, ICRC, VVAF, Handicap International, the Landmines Survivor Network, and the ICBL Working Group on Victim Assistance.
 - The consultative process will be carried out within the framework of the nine key components of victim assistance as used by both the ICBL Working Group on Victim Assistance and Handicap International. We also intend to build on the work already achieved by various parties. I have in mind in particular the work done in the context of the Bangkok regional workshop organized recently by Handicap International.
 - The Note before the Standing Committee clearly sets out the aims of objectives. It is too early to go into the details of the process. But it will certainly be our goal to present the Committee with a progress report and any findings then available at your next meeting in May, with a final report for your consideration and use at the Meeting of States Parties in September. In addition, I would like to take advantage of this meeting to meet tomorrow at 2 p.m. with any of you who would like to express some preliminary views or raise questions. I understand that a conference room on the lake side of the GICHD has been reserved for this purpose, and I look forward to seeing you there tomorrow afternoon.
 - In conclusion, I would like to repeat UNMAS' willingness to contribute to the important work carried out by the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-economic Reintegration in implementing the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. I think that UNMAS is well placed to carry out this initiative. As I said before, however, this consultative process is only a first step. It will help to identify a menu of options, but it will be up to this Committee to prioritize this list, and to decide the areas in which you would like to concentrate your efforts.