



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION

**Summary Report
January 28-29, 2002**

Introduction:

Building on past achievements, the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration focused on its mandate of identifying practical means to assist State Parties in meeting their obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention.

1. South East Asia Regional Workshop on Victim Assistance:

The Southeast Asia Seminars undertaken by Handicap International in collaboration with local and international actors in the region outlined key elements which should be taken into consideration in the planning and implementation of mine victim assistance initiatives: participation; a “bottom up” approach; good coordination; and, a holistic approach. Meeting participants expressed the desire to see similar regional exercises repeated that would take into consideration various particular regional characteristics and needs.

2. Update on the Raising the Voices of Landmine Survivors Initiative:

Pursuant to the Third Meeting of the States Parties President’s Action Program, the Standing Committee received a report on the expansion to the African continent of the Landmine Survivors Network’s “Raising the Voices of Landmine Survivors” initiative. The presence and participation of survivors once again significantly enhanced the work of the Standing Committee. Standing Committee participants expressed their appreciation with the initiative and looked forward to meeting a new group of survivors in May.

3. Measuring Progress in Implementing the Convention:

To enhance and further the work of the Committee leading up to the 2004 Review Conference, it was proposed that a consultative process be launched. The process is designed to provide greater direction to the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration in assisting States in meeting their obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention. UNMAS undertook to return to the Committee in May to report on this process.

Landmine Monitor presented the Committee with a global overview of progress in mine victim assistance and concerns pertaining to the lack of available information to measure progress in the implementation of Article 6.3. To address these concerns Landmine Monitor, with the support of the Co-Chairs, undertook to prepare a questionnaire that would assist affected States in better presenting information on their victim assistance capacities and needs.

4. Critical Issues and Advancement in Medical Care:

The ICRC, based on its ongoing experience in Afghanistan outlined the various challenges in implementing effective medical care programs in zones of armed conflict. The lessons learned focused on: the enhanced risks of mine incidents; access to and quality of health services; and, the challenges of physical and socio-economic reintegration of patients.

The Standing Committee was presented with a new and innovative manual to assist practitioners in the field of medical and injury programming. *Life after Injury* outlines the importance that communities and families can and must play in the rehabilitation of the injured.

5. Critical Issues and Advancements in Psychological and Social Rehabilitation:

Presenters stressed the need to integrate psycho-social rehabilitation in all victim assistance programs. The need to have greater data on the process of trauma recovery was identified as key element to advance this area of work. The Landmine Survivors Network, which has facilitated work in this domain, undertook to study this at greater lengths and report its findings to the Standing Committee.

6. Critical Issues and Advancements in Physical Rehabilitation:

Presenters emphasized that access to good prosthetic and orthotic devices and services are fundamental to the rehabilitation of landmine survivors. It was stressed that there is a need to adapt technologies used to local realities and that there are other issues to focus on which go beyond simply the manufacture of prosthetics and orthotics.

7. Human Rights and Disability

It was emphasized that understanding and linking mine victim assistance issues to human rights and disability issues is fundamental to advancing the rights of landmine survivors. Presenters informed the Standing Committee of the various national and international legal instruments and mechanisms in place promoting disability and human rights issues. Participants expressed the desire to explore this important issue in greater lengths in future Standing Committee meetings.

Co-Chairs

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

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