

Intersessional Standing Committee Meeting

25-29 May – Geneva

ICBL Statement on Victim Assistance

Second Review Conference-Session

Let me to thank the Victim Assistance Co-Chairs and Implementation Support Unit for the opportunity given to civil society organizations during the last two days of parallel program and Victim Assistance retreat last week to share their concerns, expertise and inputs for Cartagena Action Plan.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines supports the concepts included in the food for thought paper proposed by the Victim Assistance Co-Chairs. I don't see the need to repeat what we've proposed and included in the food for thought paper; however I would like to highlight the following points as high priorities to be taken into account in the Cartagena Action Plan:

- A. **Inclusion:** The Cartagena Action Plan has to ensure continued and expanded inclusion of landmine survivors and people with disabilities in the work of convention at the national and international level.
- B. **Accessibility** to services and facilities: The Cartagena Action Plan has to ensure landmine survivors and people disabilities can access all the relevant services including the ability to access them physically, culturally, and economically.
- C. **Financial and technical assistance:** On Tuesday we all noticed the inadequacy and in some countries drastic decrease of funding on victim assistance indicated in the statements of affected countries. Therefore the Cartagena Action Plan has to ensure adequate financial and technical resources by the affected countries and international community.
- D. **Planning and Coordination:** Experience over the past years has shown that it is essential for states to set up an inter-sectoral mechanism conduct planning, implementation and monitoring of VA activities. Such a mechanism again must include survivors and other relevant stakeholders from civil society.
- E. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international instruments provide more opportunity for a better and comprehensive implementation of victim assistance. Therefore, the ICBL insists States Parties develop a harmonized approach in planning, implementation, reporting and monitoring on victim assistance with the CRPD and/or any other international instruments that they

are part of. We also call for expanded inclusion of victim assistance in states development and poverty reduction strategies and policies

We want to ensure that these and other key ideas from the food for thought paper are translated into strong, action-oriented plan full of concrete and measurable provisions.

Landmine survivors and people with disabilities want change in their day to day lives, they want their governments to take concrete actions by utilizing adequate resources, and they want the international community to increase financial and technical supports.

Yesterday the Victim Assistance Co-Chairs asked the participants of parallel program to highlight the three priorities. Many of the participants including Margarate, Reth, Kathleen , Netty and Firoz underlined the most important and high priorities as: number one is implementation, number two is implementation and number three is implementation. I quote them and insist on implementation and change on day-to-day lives of landmines survivors their families and communities.

The ICBL thank the president designate for her special focus on victim assistance in lead up to and at the second review conference. Survivors are looking forward for a productive and future-looking review conference.

Thanks

Firoz