

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – VICTIM ASSISTANCE

COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

(Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Slovenia (Chair) and Zambia)

Intersessional Meetings

18-20 June 2024

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Activities of the Committee

1. On 7 December 2023, the Committee held its first meeting to revisit the mandate of the Committee and to discuss its 2024 work plan according to its priorities presented at the Twenty First Meeting of the States Parties (21MSP). In preparation for 2024 activities, the Committee reviewed information on the status of implementation of victim assistance, in framework of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), and challenges reported by the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities. The Committee also discussed ideas for a possible theme of the Committee for 2024 and welcomed the representative of the Netherlands as Gender Focal Point of the Committee on Victim Assistance. Recognising the importance of 2024 and the opportunities available along the year, the Committee discussed developing a work plan to facilitate the undertaking of activities during the year.
2. On 24 January 2024, the Committee met and decided on a theme for the Committee's work in 2024, "Ensuring Sustainability in Victim Assistance", the Committee prioritised sustainability given the importance of States Parties ensuring that assistance to mine victims is sustained following completion of Article 5 obligations.¹ The Committee also discussed a calendar of activities for the first quarter of the year and preparations for reaching out to States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control concerning reporting on Victim Assistance through the Article 7 Transparency Reporting.
3. On 26 February 2024, the Committee delivered a statement at the 55th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), during its annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities under the theme of "harnessing multilateral efforts to embed, amplify and realize the rights of persons with disabilities with a focus on full and effective participation and inclusion in society". The Committee called attention to the need to strengthen synergies between human rights and humanitarian frameworks as it is instrumental to States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and other humanitarian disarmament regimes to further promote the safety, protection and full social inclusion of persons with disabilities and mine survivors. The Committee welcomed the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly on the development of a General Comment on Article 11 of the CRPD. The Committee also noted that certain disabilities may not be as apparent as others, thus, it is paramount to provide mine victims with appropriate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
4. On 27 February 2024, the Committee met to finalise its interventions during the opening of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' session and the intervention delivered at

¹ 30 States Parties that have declared completing mine clearance: Albania, Algeria, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, Congo (Republic of), Costa Rica, Denmark, Djibouti, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Jordan, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic), Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Suriname, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Zambia. 18 States Parties with mine clearance deadline by 2025: Guinea-Bissau (2024), Niger (2024), Peru (2024), Serbia (2024), Afghanistan (2025), Angola (2025), Cambodia (2025), Chad (2025), Colombia (2025), Cyprus (2025), DRC (2025), Ecuador (2025), Ethiopia (2025), Nigeria (2025), Oman (2025), Tajikistan (2025), Türkiye (2025) and Zimbabwe (2025) * those in bold implement victim assistance.

the Human Rights Council's debate on disability. The Committee also discussed preparations for the 2024 victim assistance Retreat, which has been annually organised and hosted by the Committee to bring together Geneva based Victim Assistance stakeholders.

5. On 8 March 2024, the Committee hosted the 2024 victim assistance retreat with participation of VA and Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), VA Coordinator of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM, the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Humanity & Inclusion and the Gender and Diversity Working Group. Recognising the significance of collaboration, the Committee on Victim Assistance encouraged a cohesive approach in efforts to support affected States in fulfilling their Victim Assistance commitments and stressed the need to exchange information among Victim Assistance coordinators of sister Conventions to ensure advice, tools and support are provided to affected States in a coherent manner. Participants exchanged and shared planned and possible joint activities, including joint statements.
6. On 11 March 2024, the Committee delivered a statement at the session on "support systems enabling community inclusion of persons with disabilities" at the 55th Human Rights Council. The Committee encouraged comprehensive social protection systems that are inclusive of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including those of mine survivors. The Committee highlighted the importance of mental health and psychological support to mine survivors and persons with disabilities as well as to care workers. The Committee indicated the need to apply a holistic approach in creating an enabling environment, embracing bottom-up approach such as through improved socio-economic capacity of persons with disabilities, including survivors, and removing barriers that may hinder their participation and inclusion in public services.
7. On 12 March 2024, the Committee met with UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Heba Hagrass. As it was the first time to meet with the new Special Rapporteur, the Committee provided her with a background on victim assistance in the framework of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the mandate and purpose of the Committee on Victim Assistance and key progress and challenges. The Committee indicated the importance of continuing collaboration between the Committee and the Special Rapporteur to strengthen the human rights-based approach applied in victim assistance. The Special Rapporteur appreciated the work of the Committee and indicated that we share a common goal, to empower persons with disabilities including mine survivors. She welcomed enhanced collaboration with the Committee towards strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities and building stronger linkages between the CRPD and international humanitarian law.
8. During the months of February, March and April, the Committee took part in Coordinating Committee's bilateral meetings with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Mauritania, Mozambique, Peru, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the bilateral meetings was to exchange information on implementation of the OAP, to encourage reporting on victim assistance and to offer assistance, in accordance with the mandate of the Committee.
9. On 18 April 2024, the Committee delivered a joint statement together with the Victim Assistance Coordinators of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Victim Assistance Coordinator Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons at the fourth meeting of the

Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response of the WHO. The statement addressed access to first aid, healthcare, rehabilitation and assistive technology and mental health and psychological support. The statement also encouraged all States that have not joined the three Conventions to do so and to participate in ending all casualties and suffering caused by indiscriminate weapons and assist with creating equal opportunities where all survivors and persons with disabilities to enjoy dignified lives.

10. On 8 May 2024, the Committee met to discuss preliminary observations on information submitted by the States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control and preparations for the panel discussion on victim assistance during the Intersessional Meetings. The Committee also discussed victim assistance inputs for the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP) and proposal for changes to the mandate of the Committee, should there be a need. The Committee also agreed to deliver a statement at the 17th session of the Conference of States Parties of the CRPD to take place in New York in June.
11. On 11 June 2024, the Committee delivered a statement at the seventeenth session of the Conference of States Parties of the CRPD in New York. The Committee highlighted the complementarities between the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the CRPD, particularly in areas of safety and protection in situations of risks and emergencies and called for increased and collective efforts to create an enabling environment for all persons with disabilities, including mine survivors, to ensure they enjoyed dignified lives, on equal basis with others.
12. On 11 June 2024, the Committee met to finalize their preparations for the Intersessional Meetings including the Victim Assistance Experts Meeting.

II. Methodology for the preparation of preliminary observations

13. The Committee is mandated, in part, to “review relevant information provided by the States Parties on the implementation of the commitments contained in the OAP” and to “consider matters related to gender and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities in every aspect of its work.” In preparing its observations, the Committee drew upon information submitted by States Parties through Article 7 reports or directly to the Committee, on their efforts in implementing victim assistance in 2023.
14. Given the subject matter covered in Actions #33 to #41 and consistent to previous years, the Committee proceeded to prepare preliminary observations on the following matters:
 - Designation of a Government entity to oversee the integration
 - Integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks
 - Development and implementation of a national action plan
 - Removal of barriers
 - Application of multi-sectoral efforts
 - Establishment or strengthen of a centralised database
 - Access to first aid, ongoing emergency medical care
 - National referral mechanisms and directory of services
 - Access to rehabilitation services, psychological and psychosocial services, peer to peer support and social and economic inclusion services
 - Measures to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors
 - Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them
 - Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation

- Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered
 - Challenges in implementation of victim assistance commitments
15. Given the multifaceted requirements articulated in some of the OAP's actions, such as Action #33 and Action #38, the Committee unpacked these actions in its preliminary observations to capture the full breadth of the respective States Parties' commitments and efforts in implementation. The multi-layered commitments in these and other actions can be seen in the list of indicators annexed to each respective preliminary observation.
 16. In addition to observing information in accordance with victim assistance Actions (#33 - #41), like in 2023, the Committee integrated some of the cross-cutting Actions, such as Actions #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, #8 and #9 of the OAP in its preliminary observations due to their intersectional dimensions and relevance to Victim Assistance, to ensure they are included and counted when measuring and tracking the OAP's indicators.
 17. The Committee included information on casualties in its preliminary observations to create an understanding of progress made in reduction of casualties in some cases, and challenges due to ongoing casualties in other cases. The Committee also included a table (the OAP country reporting tracker) on status of reporting by the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities on implementation of the Victim assistance commitments of the OAP, for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

III. Information provided by the States Parties on Victim Assistance Implementation

18. At the close of the 21MSP of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 38 States Parties - Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Nicaragua, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe – had reported mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control. Of these, as of 5 June 2024, 31 States Parties submitted Article 7 reports: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Congo (the Democratic Republic of the), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Palestine (the State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
19. Of the 38, 23 States Parties included updated information on victim assistance activities in their Article 7 reports: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
20. Of the 38 States Parties that reported mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, as of 5 June 2024, 15 had not submitted updated information on efforts to implement victim assistance commitments: Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Congo (the Democratic Republic of the), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Nige, Nigeria, Palestine (the State of), Somalia, Sudan, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.
21. The Committee also observed other States Parties such as Mali providing information on casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

PART 2: OBSERVATIONS

I. OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE

22. The Committee would like to thank States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Congo (the Democratic Republic of the), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Palestine (the State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - that have provided information on implementation of their victim assistance commitments. The Committee is grateful to States Parties – **Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, Nicaragua, Serbia, Türkiye and Thailand** - that have provided clarifications or further information in response to preliminary observations provided by the Committee on Victim Assistance in 2023.
23. The Committee encourages other State Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control - **Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Congo (the Democratic Republic of the), Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine (the State of), Somalia, Sudan, Sri Lanka and Ukraine** – that, as of 5 June 2024, either have not submitted Article 7 Report or did not include updated information on victim assistance efforts in their Article 7 Report, to do so as soon as possible.
24. The Committee observed that of the 23 States Parties that have reported on their victim assistance efforts, 9 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Serbia and Uganda** – have not reported new casualties in 2023. The Committee commends efforts made by these States Parties to prevent new casualties, thus making tangible progress towards the primary objective of the Convention, which is to end casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.
25. The Committee observed that 14 States Parties – **Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** – reported new casualties in 2023, with the highest casualties reported by **Yemen (499), Colombia (99), Angola (83), South Sudan (77), Iraq (56), Cambodia (32) and Türkiye (11)**. The Committee observed that while anti-personnel mines and other explosive ordinances continue taking a heavy toll, the number of new casualties has been reducing in some cases, with significant reductions reported by **Colombia and Türkiye** compared to 2022. The Committee also noted, however, that casualties in **Angola, South Sudan, Iraq and Yemen** increased in 2023, compared to the year before. The Committee encourages all States Parties to increase efforts to end new casualties as soon as possible.
26. The Committee notes that the provision of first aid or emergency response and medical care is vital to reduce fatalities among new casualties and to reduce the severity of injuries, thus, it encourages the States Parties with ongoing casualties to increase national efforts and invites the international community to enhance cooperation and assistance in this regard.
27. The Committee noted that **Serbia** provided information on affected family members, with 214 of the 630 mine victims registered, as affected family members and **Algeria** reported that 81% of indirect victims are female. The Committee observed that information provided on direct victims or mine survivors is limited and that data on mine indirect victims or affected families and communities had not been reported. Given the significance of having data on both direct and indirect victims, the Committee encourages States Parties with mine victims under their jurisdiction or control, to take this matter into consideration to ensure that the needs of all mine victims, including mine survivors, affected families and communities are met.

28. The Committee observed that States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities continued to make progress with regards to implementation of Action #33 of the OAP. All the 23 States Parties that provided information on victim assistance - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported having national entities mandated to coordinate or co-coordinate victim assistance related activities including its integration into broader national frameworks. The Committee noted designation of national entities to ensure the implementation of victim assistance, an important achievement and encourages the States Parties to do more to ensure continuity in coordination with participation of all relevant ministries, agencies and stakeholders including representatives of mine victims.
29. 22 of the 23 States Parties reported on victim assistance - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - provided information on efforts made to integrate victim assistance into broader national frameworks, including laws, policies, plans and programmes developed for the implementation of the CRPD. To enhance integration of victim assistance in broader frameworks the Committee encourages the States Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control to report on their efforts in mobilising further financial and technical support to ensure timely efforts are made to achieve the objectives of the OAP on Victim Assistance.
30. 14 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Iraq, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and Zimbabwe** - provided information on activities undertaken or measures in place to remove or reduce barriers facing participation or inclusion of mine survivors. The Committee would like to encourage other States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, to report on progress made to remove barriers that hinder participation and inclusion of mine survivors into their society as required by Action #33.
31. 19 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe** - reported having developed or in the process of developing national action plans as required by Action #33 of the OAP. This includes the States Parties that have included the needs of mine survivors into plans that concern broader issues, such as disability, health, social protection, humanitarian response and other frameworks. In accordance with Action #33, the Committee would like to encourage the development and implementation of *measurable, realistic and time-bound national inclusive* plans, sensitive to diverse needs and situations of all mine victims including men, women, boys, girls living in remote and rural areas.
32. Of the 23 States Parties that reported on victim assistance efforts, 22 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan², Tajikistan³, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported taking multi-sectoral approach as per Action #34, including by taking steps to align victim assistance activities with provisions of the CRPD. In February 2024 the Committee on Victim Assistance encouraged the CRPD Committee, speaking

² South Sudan became a party to the CRPD in February 2024 and it has begun aligning its victim assistance efforts with the provision of the CRPD several years it becomes a party to the CRPD.

³ While Tajikistan is a signatory to the CRPD and yet to ratify, it has been reporting aligning relevant policies and programmes with provisions of the CRPD, as it proceeds towards ratification.

in their opening session, to consider inclusion of questions in the list of issues regarding the situation of mine survivors and their inclusion and participation in the CRPD frameworks.

33. 36 of the 38 States Parties reporting mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control - **Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Nicaragua, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - are party to the CRPD. **Tajikistan** has signed the CRPD, and it has reported that the work is underway towards ratification. The Committee encourages all other States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to accede to the CRPD as soon as possible.
34. 12 States Parties - **Algeria, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Iraq, Nicaragua, Peru, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye** and **Zimbabwe** - reported having integrated or in the process of integrating mine victims' data into national centralised databases, with **Iraq** and **Türkiye** reported on process underway to create a centralised database. The Committee encourages all States Parties implementing victim assistance to "establish or strengthen a centralised database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims."
35. 19 States Parties – **Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** – reported on casualty data collection and registering them into national mine action centre's database and sharing data with relevant ministries and other national stakeholders. The Committee observed that conducting national surveys to identify mine victims, to understand their living conditions, needs and challenges has remained a common and persistent challenges for several States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities. The Committee noted that several States Parties such as Angola and Zimbabwe have reported plans to carryout surveys to identify all mine victims and their needs and challenges, they face, for the past several years but not fulfilled due to lack of funding. The Committee encourages increased efforts including allocation of national resources and international cooperation for data collection, consolidation of data to better design and implement programmes and policies pertaining to victim assistance.
36. All of the 23 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - reported on availability of emergency assistance and/or healthcare, while, some of the States Parties reported challenges encountered in provision, delivery or access, such as lack of timely first aid, capacity to respond efficiently or shortages in the number of healthcare centres, health workers and first responders in or around affected remote areas and/or limited equipment required for emergency response.
37. The Committee observed that 19 States Parties – **Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Nicaragua, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda** and **Zimbabwe** - reported having referral mechanisms in place, mostly within national public health systems. 14 States Parties - **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Peru, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye** and **Zimbabwe** – reported having a national directory of services, some of

which included information on services made available through ministries' websites or other online platforms. The Committee invites other States Parties implementing victim assistance to provide information on both aspects of Action #37, namely developing/strengthening of national referral mechanism and developing/strengthening of national directory of services.

38. The Committee observed that all 23 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - that provided updates on their victim assistance activities, reported on availability of rehabilitation and assistive technology. The Committee appreciates efforts invested by the States Parties to provide rehabilitation services, including creation of new rehabilitation centre in Senegal and Iraq and upgrading of rehabilitation and healthcare centres in Angola, and the progressive integration of rehabilitation into their national public health systems or other national frameworks. The Committee would like to draw attention to the multifaceted commitments of Action #38 with regards to rehabilitation, including the need to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of assistive devices, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.
39. The Committee encourages the States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on allocation of sustainable resources to rehabilitation services and on mobilisation of partnerships, including by taking advantage of the assistance and guidance provided by the WHO upon request by its Member States. During the fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response of the WHO in April 2024, the Committee highlighted the fact that access to rehabilitation and assistive technology is critical to recovery and empowerment of explosive ordnance survivors and that with a significant number of survivors acquiring lifelong impairments. The Committee emphasised the vital nature of rehabilitation and access to affordable and quality assistive devices. The Committee also indicated the common challenges such as shortages of technical experts, including prosthetic and orthotic technicians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists would need to be addressed, to facilitate effective rehabilitation in all affected communities.
40. 17 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - provided information on availability of psychological, psychosocial support most of which indicated that these services are available at public hospitals and open to everyone in need of psychological support, including mine victims and 5 States Parties – **Algeria, Cambodia, Ethiopia, El Salvador and South Sudan** - reported on availability of peer-to-peer support, to assist mine survivors in their psychological recovery. The Committee encourages all States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to increase their efforts including national capacity to enhance provision of psychological support and mental health as well as peer-to-peer support. Given the effective complementarity of peer support to psychological support and mental health, the Committee encourages its integration into public health systems.
41. The Committee observed that 23 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe**- reported making progress in meeting the social and economic needs of mine survivors by providing various types of assistance such as vocational training/education, employment opportunities, pension, and improving national frameworks, consistent to efforts reported in previous years. The Committee noted that the type and scale of services reported in meeting the socio-economic needs of mine victims significantly varies – from ad hoc distribution of livelihood supports to well established programmes. The Committee noted that much more

and in a consistent manner, would need to be invested to address the needs of all mine victims including direct and indirect victims.

42. The Committee encourages embedding victim assistance into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant programmes such as reconstruction, poverty reduction, education, capacity development and universal health coverage frameworks, in accordance with commitments of the OAP.
43. 17 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - provided information on efforts made or measures in place with regards to safety and protection of mine survivors. The Committee invites other States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on efforts to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risk and emergencies, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and health crises.
44. The Committee in its statement at the Human Rights Council’s 2024 debate on disability pointed out that strengthened synergies between human rights and humanitarian frameworks can be instrumental to States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and other humanitarian disarmament regimes to further promote the safety, protection and full social inclusion of persons with disabilities and mine survivors. The Committee welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly on Article 11 of the CRPD.
45. 21 States Parties – **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe** - reported on efforts made concerning inclusion and participation of mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes. The Committee encourages all States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control to report on their efforts to ensure “the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society, based on respect for human rights, gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination” in accordance with Action #41 of OAP.
46. The Committee noted that 21 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** – reported activities and implementing plans and policies that demonstrate national ownerships in implementation of victim assistance obligation, with some of the States Parties indicating allocation of national funds. The Committee encourages all States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities to report on efforts that strengthen national ownerships concerning implementation of victim assistance obligations, in accordance with Action #1 of the OAP.
47. The Committee observed that 20 States Parties – **Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** – provided information on measures in place including through national laws and progress achieved with regards to consideration of gender, age, disability and/or other diversity dimensions in implementation of their victim assistance activities. The Committee also noted that most of the information provided in this regard, focused on disaggregation of data by gender and age, whereas consideration of gender, age and disability is required by the OAP across mine action activities and in other relevant domains. The Committee encourages all States Parties with victim

assistance responsibilities to provide information on their efforts to integrate gender and diversity in their mine action activities and other programmes and policies as relevant.

48. The Committee observed that 17 States Parties - **Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe** - shared information on challenges they encountered in providing assistance to mine victims. Challenges such as shortages of financial resources, updated or accurate national data on mine victims or consolidation of available data into a centralised system, were observed as being among the most common challenges that have persisted for several years. The Committee encourages both States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, and States Parties in a position to support, to increase efforts to address these challenges as soon as possible.
49. Given the important year for the Convention and for reporting on achieving the objectives of the OAP, the Committee encourages all States Parties with mine survivors in areas under their jurisdiction or control that have not provided an update this year to do so as soon as possible. The Committee wishes to remind the States Parties implementing victim assistance that may require support, to reach out to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for technical support and advice on the implementation of their victim assistance and reporting commitments, including the OAP commitments.
50. The Committee also draws attention to two tables annexed to this document. Annex I provides an overview of reporting on implementation of Actions #33 to #41 of the OAP, and annex II provides updates on casualties reported by the States Parties. The Committee invites States Parties to provide further information or any correction on data included in the annexes.

Annex I

Oslo Action Plan

Victim Assistance Reporting Status

Information provided by States Parties in 2024 for the year 2023

States Parties		Victim Assistance Actions of the Oslo Action Plan
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	Submitted Article 7 Report in 2024 ⁴	#33	#34	#35	#36	#37	#38	#39	#40	#41
1	Afghanistan									
2	Albania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Algeria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Angola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Burundi									
7	Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Chad									
9	Chile									
10	Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Croatia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	The Democratic Republic of the Congo									
13	El Salvador	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Eritrea									
15	Ethiopia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Guinea-Bissau									
17	Iraq	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Mauritania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Mozambique									
21	Niger									
21	Nigeria									
23	Nicaragua	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Palestine (State of)									
25	Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Senegal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Somalia									
29	South Sudan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Sri Lanka									
31	Sudan									
32	Tajikistan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Türkiye	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Ukraine	✓								
37	Yemen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Annex II.

**Reported casualties
in States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, according to latest
information provided by the respective States Parties**

States Parties	2023 casualties				
	Women	Girls	Boys	Men	2023

⁴ As of 5 June 2024.

	injured	killed	Injured	killed	injured	killed	injured	killed	Total	Total of latest reported casualties for all times ⁵
Afghanistan										More than 35,300 ⁶
Albania										1,003
Algeria										7,255
Angola	3	3	6	8	15	24	14	9	83	9,432
Bosnia and Herzegovina									1	1,781
Burundi										Approx. 6,000
Cambodia									32	Approx. 65,000
Chad									29	2,863
Colombia									135	12,405
Croatia									3	610
The Democratic Republic of the Congo										3,103
El Salvador										4,814
Eritrea										Approx. 5,750
Ethiopia										16,616 ⁷
Guinea-Bissau										Approx. 1,500
Iraq									56	34,198
Jordan			91				927			1,018 ⁸
Mauritania									5	634
Mozambique										Approx. 10,000 ⁹
Nigeria										472
Nicaragua										1,276
Palestine (State of)					1	1	1	1	4	24 ¹⁰
Peru			15				333		0	348 ¹¹
Senegal	4							4	8	870
Serbia										630
Somalia										Approx. 1,300 ¹²
South Sudan	4	2	8	7	19	15	20	2	77	5,916 ¹³
Sri Lanka										2,900 ¹⁴
Sudan										2,444
Tajikistan									2	890

⁵ The figures are presented based on the latest information the States Parties have provided through their Article 7 Reports or other means, such as through their updates at the Convention's meetings in their communication with the Committee on Victim Assistance. It is worth noting that the figures get adjusted frequently by the respective States Parties. The Committee welcomes updated information or corrections at any time.

⁶ Afghanistan has reported that as of 2018 a total of 350,000 war related victims were registered by the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) out of which 34,000 of them are victims of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War. The total figure in the table includes the figure from information Afghanistan provided this year.

⁷ Ethiopia has reported identifying 15,321 victims before 2002 and registering 1,295 victims between 2002 and 2004.

⁸ Disaggregated numbers show the total casualties for all years.

⁹ Mozambique has reported that through an upcoming statistical survey of persons with disabilities, disaggregated data on mine survivors will also be compiled.

¹⁰ As per 2024 Article 7 Report by the State of Palestine between 2016 and 2023, 24 casualties were recorded.

¹¹ Disaggregated numbers show the total casualties for all years.

¹² Somalia has reported that 1,300 registered victims are subject to verification as part of a National Mine Victim Survey which the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) plans to conduct, when funding is secured.

¹³ South Sudan has reported 5,145 victims were recorded before 2011, and the figure is included in the total casualties.

¹⁴ Sri Lanka had reported that since 1985 a total of 1,732 individuals have been injured by anti-personnel mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW), and in 2023, the figure is adjusted to 2,900 and Sri Lanka noted that the verification of data goes on.

Thailand	1						4	1	6	760 ¹⁵
Türkiye					1		8	2	32	4,156
Uganda									0	Approx. 2,500
Ukraine	25	6	12	0	27	13	133	304	510	887 ¹⁶
Yemen	46	4	28	3	76	11	300	31	499	9,134 ¹⁷
Zimbabwe									5	304 ¹⁸

¹⁵ Thailand reported that due to data improvements, the number of survivors reported in the past has been adjusted.

¹⁶ According to Ukraine's Article 7 Report submitted in 2024, the total casualties registered for 2022 (377) and 2023 (510) is 887.

¹⁷ The figure shows all casualties reported including 3,854 reported for years before 2013.

¹⁸ Zimbabwe has reported having a considerable number of mine victims and that identification of the rest of the victims to be completed, subject to the availability of resources.