



## Thematic Panel

### *Victim Assistance: Ensuring Synergies Work Going Forward*

Wednesday, 19 June 2024

11:30 – 13:00

#### Background

The States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control<sup>1</sup> continue making progress in meeting the needs of mine victims. Efforts and approaches are progressively improved to ensure the effectiveness of assistance provided. One of such strategies is included in the Oslo Action Plan in which the States Parties commit to “carry out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed through national policy and legal frameworks relating to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction, in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

Recognising the dynamic and evolving nature of victim assistance, it is important to adapt approaches moving forward. One such situation to take into account occurs when a State Party with responsibility for mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control completes mine clearance. Of the 31 States Parties that have declared mine clearance completion, only eight (8)<sup>2</sup> continue implementing victim assistance. As more States Parties<sup>3</sup> advance towards completing mine clearance, the need to seek sustainability beyond completion becomes more relevant.

More opportunities for implementation have emerged, particularly in areas of disability rights, humanitarian protection, and health. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which has been ratified by 36 of the 38 States Parties with mine victims, has been increasingly building momentum for the rights of persons with disabilities at national and global levels. States Parties to the CRPD are making steady progress in eradicating discrimination by adopting national legislation and empowering persons with disabilities. The Global Disability Summit<sup>4</sup>, inspired by the CRPD, aims to foster inclusive development. Other major policy developments revolve around safety and protection, including the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2475 on the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities. Significant steps have also been taken to address challenges in rehabilitation and assistive technology in recent years.

With these positive developments, it is believed that more can be done to enhance synergies between victim assistance efforts and broader frameworks including those mentioned above. The expert panel will delve into this important topic.

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<sup>1</sup> The States Parties that have reported 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, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niger, Palestine (State of), Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

<sup>2</sup> The States Parties that have completed mine clearance and continue implementing victim assistance: Albania, Algeria, Chile, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Mozambique and Uganda.

<sup>3</sup> The States Parties with mine clearance deadline in 2025: **Guinea-Bissau** (2024), **Niger** (2024), **Peru** (2024), **Serbia** (2024), **Afghanistan** (2025), **Angola** (2025), **Cambodia** (2025), **Chad** (2025), **Colombia** (2025), Cyprus (2025), **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (2025), Ecuador (2025), **Ethiopia** (2025), **Nigeria** (2025), Oman (2025), **Tajikistan** (2025), **Türkiye** (2025) and **Zimbabwe** (2025) \* those in bold implement victim assistance.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/>

## Objectives

In supporting the States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control and to provide food for thought for the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP), the expert panel will discuss sustainability in victim assistance in conjunction with broader developments efforts. The panel will share best practices and highlight challenges experienced by the States Parties to establish national mechanisms or systems to sustain assistance to mine victims.

The panel will offer a space for States Parties to take the floor and offer information on their strategies and practices applied at national or community level to sustain assistance to mine victims.

## Format

Following opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Victim Assistance, the panellists will address a set of questions (shown further below). States Parties implementing victim assistance are invited to provide feedback (three minutes each) in line with the question for participants:

## Speakers

**Moderator: Pambary Bonzi**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the UN in Geneva and Member of the Committee on Victim Assistance

- **Teddy Akello**, Programme Director, National Mine Action Authority South Sudan
- **Adnan Telfah**, Head, Victim Assistance and Mine Risks Education Department, National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, Jordan
- **Sarany Diatta**, Coordinator, Solidarity Initiative for Development Actions / Association of Senegalese Mine Survivors (ISAD/ASVM)
- **Sophie Allin**, Inclusion specialist, Humanity & Inclusion

## Background documents

- [The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Oslo Declaration, and the Oslo Action Plan](#)
- [Achieving the Aims of the Oslo Action Plan: Draft Progress Report 2019-2020](#)
- [Oslo Action Plan: Status of Implementation](#)
- [Guide to Understanding Victim Assistance in the Context of the AP Mine Ban Convention – Chapter 4 | The Basis for Action: Understanding the extent of the challenge](#)

## Questions for participants

- *What has been your experience in engaging other sectors (such as health, education, human rights, development and finance) in implementation of victim assistance over the past five years? What challenges have you encountered in this regard?*
- *If your country has completed mine clearance, have you faced challenges to sustain provision of assistance to mine victims? How have you addressed these challenges? What strategies did you apply to ensure the sustainability of assistance to mine victims?*
- *If your country is approaching completion of its mine clearance obligations under Article 5, what steps have been taken to make sure assistance to mine victims will continued after completion?*
- *What best practices and innovative strategies would you propose to improve sustainability in victim assistance over the course of next five years?*