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# 10MSP Summary - Assisting the Victims (1 December)

Twenty-three States Parties with significant numbers of survivors presented their activities and the challenges faced in implementing the victim assistance actions (Actions 23-33) of the Cartagena Action Plan (CAP).

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** announced the creation of community-based rehabilitation initiatives on physical rehabilitation and mental health, and highlighted cooperation efforts with various NGOs. **Sudan** highlighted survivor participation and announced a High Disability Council was established in Sudan in October 2010. **Cambodia** reported improved coordination and launching community-based rehabilitation guidelines. **Albania, Senegal, Thailand** and **Uganda** reported that their victim assistance plans were revised or redrafted according to CAP principles. **Albania** also announced that it will hold an international victim assistance meeting in May 2011, while **Senegal** reported the adoption of a new law on social rehabilitation and noted that prosthetics production increased with support from India. Iraq announced that the Directorate for Landmines is attempting to carry out a data survey of casualties. **Afghanistan** pointed out plans to extend a successful three-year inclusive education pilot project and to adjust a monitoring system for the national disability plan. **Chad** and **DR Congo** reported drafting victim assistance plans that were pending adoption. **DR Congo** also noted establishing a national commission for the rehabilitation of survivors. **Guinea Bissau** reported that a Federation of Persons with Disabilities was founded in October 2010. **Serbia** noted that laws and regulations adopted in 2009 increased the availability of economic inclusion to persons with disabilities and provision of assistive devices to disabled veterans. **Tajikistan** stated that it had supported the establishment of two survivors' groups, and that the CAP was translated into the local language. **Jordan** highlighted a survey of almost all survivors conducted in 2010 in cooperation with Survivor Corps, the inclusion of victim assistance goals in a new five-year mine action plan, the drafting of national victim assistance standards and the launch of a large victim assistance project in September 2010. **Nicaragua** announced the reform of its 1995 Law on Persons with Disabilities, aligning it with the obligations of the UN CRPD, and the doubling of psychological support to survivors in the first half of 2010. **Colombia** reported developing a multi-stakeholder national victim assistance committee to develop a national victim assistance plan, and supporting representatives of mine survivors' organizations to attend meetings. **Burundi** noted it was developing an action plan including persons with disabilities. **Angola** announced that a national survivor registration project was started in July 2010 in two provinces and that there were initiatives to establish survivors' organizations. **Croatia** provided an update on the process of creating a comprehensive survivor database and the function of a new victim assistance coordination body. **Ethiopia** reported on disability sector coordination and the development of a national plan of action for persons with disabilities (2010-2020) awaiting endorsement. **Peru** outlined relevant recent legislation and a victim assistance plan that included the participation of survivor associations. **Mozambique** reported that survivors are assisted through the disability framework and described efforts to assist persons with disabilities more broadly. **El Salvador** noted an increased number of casualties due to data reclassification and the payment of overdue financial compensation for survivors.

The **ICBL** made a statement on progress made by States Parties in implementing the CAP Actions # 23-#33, with a focus on assessing the needs of survivors, victim assistance coordination, survivor inclusion, and increasing access to services. The work of ICBL victim assistance focal points in advancing the work and supporting states' endeavours was highlighted, as was a call for states to fulfill their commitments on resource mobilization by presenting victim assistance plans and needs according to CAP Action #34.  
Incoming victim assistance co-chair **Australia** reported that it will produce a handbook to enhance understanding on assisting survivors in the context of disarmament, disability and development, **Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Guatemala, France, Switzerland** also spoke as did **Turkey** (as outgoing victim assistance co-chair) and **Nigeria**. Statements on victim assistance were also made by **ICRC** and **UNMAS**.

## Parallel Programme for Victim Assistance Experts (29-30 November and 2 December)

Held on 29 and 30 November, the Parallel Programme for Victim Assistance Experts gathered victim assistance experts from the majority of countries with significant numbers of survivors, national victim assistance focal points of the ICBL and others. The focus was on community-based rehabilitation (CBR), linked to the Geneva launch of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Guidelines on Community Based Rehabilitation. Presenters from the **WHO**, the **International Labour Organization** and the **International Disability and Development Consortium** gave overviews of CBR guideline components relevant to victim assistance. The **ICBL** informed participants on the relevance of the Cartagena and Vientiane Action Plans to CBR, and ICBL victim assistance focal points Jesus Martinez and Bekele Gonfa gave a demonstration of the usefulness of peer support. On 2 December, a field trip to meet with the Swiss organization Plusport at the World Cycling Center in Aigle highlighted methods for providing inclusive leisure and sports opportunities.

**Indonesia**, speaking on behalf of itself and **Bulgaria**, the co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, expressed hope that the four States Parties with outstanding obligations will meet them quickly, will report on progress regularly, and will provide a plan for compliance, including a projected completion date, as soon as possible.

**Belarus** gave updates on the status of destruction of PFM-1 type mines in collaboration with the European Commission, and announced that a tendering process was concluded and a company was selected in October 2010 to implement the destruction activities. No timetable was announced for beginning or ending the project, however.

**Greece** announced that it is currently investigating the 480 mine discrepancy between mines sent for destruction and mines reported destroyed by the Bulgarian company sub-contracted to carry out the destruction. As reported in June 2010, the contract with the Greek company EAS was terminated as a result of delays, and a legal action by the company is currently in process in the Greek courts. The Greek Ministry of Defense is unable to award a new contract for the destruction of the 951,946 mines remaining in stock until the pending legal proceedings progress and it is known what compensation will be awarded to the Bulgarian company. Greece announced that in 2010, 1,066 mines retained for training or development had been destroyed, leaving 6,158 mines retained. **Bulgaria** spoke in response, stating that both countries are working together to clarify the issue of the 480 missing mines.

**Turkey** gave a brief update, which it said would be its last on this topic, as all mines, with the exception of 22,000 ADAM mines needing special treatment during destruction, had been destroyed. It announced it has negotiated a contact with NAMSA for the destruction of the remaining mines.

**Ukraine** called for continued and increased international support from current or potential donors, but acknowledged its own responsibility in destroying its 6 million remaining mines. It reported that more than 154,000 PFM mines were destroyed in the research of technology for destroying PFM mines. It announced that the Pavlograd facility was ready to start destruction in the first trimester of 2011, and over 1 million PFM mines were expected to be destroyed per year. Ukraine announced that Norway will provide up to $1 million in 2010-11, and that with those funds, a possible 6 million euros from the EU under discussion, a possible NATO PFP trust fund project, and past support from EU partners, it hopes to shorten the expected destruction time.

The floor was then opened and statements were heard from **Germany, Norway, Australia, Ireland, Turkey** and the **ICRC**. The **ICBL** expressed serious concern that the states still had not finished destroying their mines, no firm date commitments have yet been made for coming back into compliance with the treaty, and that only Turkey had made significant progress in destroying its mines in 2010. The ICBL called on the four States Parties with outstanding deadlines to provide monthly updates on progress, and on all other States Parties to proactively provide political, technical, financial, or other resources to help finish destruction without delay.

In addition, during the session on transparency and exchange of information on 3 December, **Iraq** said it had completed the destruction of the stockpile of 690 mines mentioned in its transparency report submitted in 2009 and committed to destroying any new stocks that may be discovered.

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