

---

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel  
Mines and on Their Destruction**

19 October 2011

Original: English

---

**Eleventh Meeting**

**Phnom Penh, 28 November – 2 December 2011**

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the general status  
and operation of the Convention**

**Achieving the aims of the Cartagena Action Plan:  
The Phnom Penh Progress Report 2010-2011**

**Submitted by the President-Designate of the Eleventh Meeting of the  
States Parties\***

**Section #3  
Victim Assistance**

**IV. Victim Assistance**

1. At the Cartagena Summit, while noting the progress that has been made in achieving the victim assistance aim of the Convention, the States Parties recognised that the most identifiable gains had been process-related and that the real promise of the Convention is to make a difference on the ground, in the lives of survivors, the families of those killed or injured, and their communities.<sup>1</sup> The States Parties expressed the view that a persistent challenge remains in translating increased understanding on victim assistance into tangible improvements in the quality of daily life of mine victims. To this end, the States Parties expressed their resolve to provide adequate age- and gender-sensitive assistance to mine victims, through a holistic and integrated approach that includes emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, and social and economic inclusion in accordance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, with the aim of ensuring their full and effective participation and inclusion in the social, cultural, economic and political life of their communities.<sup>2</sup> Also to this end, the States Parties, particularly those accountable to and responsible for the well-being of significant numbers of mine victims, agreed to reinforce their efforts and do their utmost to facilitate measurable progress by applying 11 specific actions in the Cartagena Action Plan related to

---

\* Late submission.

<sup>1</sup> Review of the operation and status of the Convention: 2005-2009, paragraph 112.

<sup>2</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, paragraph 12.

victim assistance.<sup>3</sup> Since the 10MSP, States Parties continued efforts to act in accordance with their Cartagena Summit commitments.

2. **Afghanistan** reported that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was passed by both houses of parliament and it is currently awaiting ratification. Afghanistan reported that new national disability legislation has been adopted with this containing a small support mechanism for those disabled due to war, including those disabled due to mines, other explosive remnants of war and terrorist attacks. Afghanistan recalled that its overarching National Disability Action Plan of 2008-2011 is due to expire and that efforts are being made to develop tools to ensure a more streamlined mechanism for monitoring and reporting. These tools would be applicable not only on the national plan but also to ensure the fulfilment of reporting obligations under the CRPD and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In addition, Afghanistan reported that it is integrating inclusive and mainstreamed activities within many of its policies and strategies. New strategies are being developed for disability and rehabilitation as well as mental health within the Ministry of Public Health. The Ministry of Education has developed a road map towards inclusion for education methodologies that ensures inclusive and child friendly education for all children with a focus on girls and boys with disabilities. New units have been established for inclusive education and special education. Afghanistan also reported that the Ministry of Public Works has adopted a three year strategy for rural access to ensure persons with disabilities gain greater access to services. As well, Afghanistan stressed the importance of gender equality, as well as equal access to education for all children, embodied in its legal system.

3. **Albania** reported that at the end of 2010, a national victim assistance workshop was staged at which government representatives, local health authorities, donors and other partners and organisations assessed progress in the application of Albania's National Victim Assistance Plan and discussed future needs. Albania also reported that, in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan, data and detailed statistics on casualties from mines and unexploded ordnance have been made available in collaboration with the ICRC. Albania further reported that, in terms of physical rehabilitation services to landmine survivors and others who may need such services, the prosthetic workshop at the Kukes Regional Hospital has provided, since the 10MSP, major repairs and new prostheses for at least 60 amputees. In addition, the Physical and Medical Rehabilitation (PMR) project in Albania continues to provide technical assistance to medical staff and the Faculty of Nursing in Albania aimed at improving and upgrading the rehabilitation capacities at the local and national level. Finally, Albania reported that the social inclusion of boys and girls who are survivors has been a focus of victim assistance activities and that 20 survivors or family members successfully completed vocational training courses and have been provided with modest financial assistance to start up small businesses.

4. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reported that, since the 10MSP, a Council of Persons with Disabilities has been established and a law on professional rehabilitation, training and employment of persons with disabilities has been adopted. This law creates new opportunities for economic and social integration for all persons with disabilities. Bosnia and Herzegovina also reported that a fund for professional rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons in Republic of Srpska supported 201 persons with disabilities in 2010 and that the plan in 2011 is to employ about 220 persons with disabilities.

5. **Burundi** reported that a national victim assistance workshop was held at the start of 2011 to provide input for the development of a national plan of action. The workshop was followed by a working meeting of national technical experts to develop the first version of

---

<sup>3</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, Actions # 23 to # 33.

the national plan of action. The plan, which focuses on persons with disabilities including landmine victims, was finalised and adopted by April 2011. Burundi reported that the national plan adopts an inclusive and comprehensive approach to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Burundi further reported that, in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan, the national plan incorporates objectives in the areas of data collection, capacity building, accessibility and awareness-raising. Data collection objectives include undertaking of a qualitative survey of people with disabilities and their needs, setting up a database with the service providers and their locations, and incorporating a category for persons with disabilities in existing survey mechanisms before 2012. Objectives on capacity building and training include the training of village rescuers in each mine-affected area before 2012, facilitating emergency evacuation plans for victims in specialised centres, strengthening emergency care capacities, and reducing the cost of long term care for survivors. Objectives to improve the availability of and accessibility to appropriate services include increasing quality and improving accessibility in at least five provinces that do not already have these services and improving geographical accessibility to services for landmine victims and other persons with disabilities. The national plan also includes the provision of adequate psychosocial support to mine survivors and persons with disabilities in local care and rehabilitation centres.

6. **Cambodia** reported that, in August 2011, a national workshop on disseminating the Cartagena Action Plan took place in order to raise awareness and encourage progress in implementation amongst relevant operators, affected communities, and persons with disabilities including victims and survivors. In addition, Cambodia reported that since the 10MSP, five sub-decrees have been adopted in order to implement the Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and various policies related to disability, including a sub-decrees on the organisation and function of the Disability Action Council (DAC), the organisation and functioning of the Foundation for Persons with Disabilities, the employment quota system for persons with disabilities, the establishment of a national coordination committee for disability, the policy for supporting poor persons with disabilities in communities, and on the establishment of a disability rights administration. At the international level, Cambodia reported that it is in the process of ratifying the CRPD. In addition, Cambodia reported that it is in the process of reviewing on the progress of the implementation of its National Plan of Action for persons with disabilities including landmine/ERW survivors which is due to expire at the end of 2011.

7. **Chad** reported that a national plan of action for victim assistance has been developed spanning a five-year period and that it is awaiting validation by the government, which has established a Committee of Experts to examine financial implications and develop proposals in view of its adoption. Chad further reported that progress had been made in establishing inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral coordinating mechanisms within the country.

8. **Colombia** reported the adoption of the Law of the Victim and Land Restitution, which is designed to promote the protection of boys, girls and teenagers against all forms of violence and to guarantee reparation. Through this law, the Programme of Psychosocial Attention and Integral Health to Victims was also created. To achieve the implementation of this law, Colombia's mine action programme (PAICMA) has worked on the following matters: reparation; employment and administrative compensation; information systems; prevention; protection and guarantees of non-repetition; and, assistance, attention and rehabilitation. As a result, the national government has: (a) a draft Regulation Decree and (b) a document of public policy guidelines, which will be the basis of the National Plan for Victims Reparation and Comprehensive Assistance. In June 2011, Colombia's Congress approved the Integral Rehabilitation Law for the members of the Public Forces. This law enhances the capacities of the Ministry of National Defense in rehabilitation. Colombia further reported progress in the area of data collection through the establishment of a

National Disability Advisory in June 2011 and by incorporating information regarding assistance to victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war into the National Disability System. According to recent data collection, 370 Colombians were victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war between January and August 2011, including 120 civilians and 250 members of the Public Forces. Colombia reported that 100 people received training on topics such as the rights of survivors and their families. Colombia also reported that its nation-wide “remángate” campaign had great success in raising awareness of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. In addition, Colombia reported that it signed an agreement with Ecuador to exchange good practices in the disability field.

9. **Croatia** reported that it has strengthened national ownership by establishing the national Coordinating Body for Helping Mine and UXO Victims made up of representatives from governmental and non-governmental sectors. This body consists of 19 members, 5 of whom represent non-governmental organisations. The main tasks of this body are to create a national action plan for helping mine/UXO victims, to establish a unified national database of mine/UXO victims, and to ensure that adequate measures for the timely provision of assistance to mine/UXO victims are being taken. Since the 10MSP, the National Action Plan for Helping Mine and UXO Victims 2010 – 2014 was drafted, the main goal of which is to improve the quality of life of people injured by mines and UXO, and families of the victims. Areas of focus in this plan include emergency and continuing care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support and economic integration. The Plan also foresees changes to parts of Croatian legislation in order to enhance compliance with conventions. A process of unification is underway for a national database of mine/UXO victims and Croatia expects that the unified base should provide easier monitoring of the process of rehabilitation and integration of mine/UXO victims into society.

10. The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** reported that, since the 10MSP, the IMSMA data collection form has been updated to enhance the information to be collected about each victim and that this form has been used in the Kinshasa, Eastern Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga provinces in the first trimester of 2011. The Democratic Republic of the Congo further reported that, in June 2010, a strategic national plan for victim assistance was adopted under supervision by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Actions and National Solidarity and that the process of developing this plan was inclusive and involved all relevant actors working at the national level. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that it is working to establish an inter-ministerial coordination committee under the leadership of the General Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs. The General Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity will preside over the committee and will lead discussions on the strategy to ratify the CPRD.

11. **El Salvador** reported having raised awareness of the Cartagena Action Plan at the national level through its governing body for disability policy (CONAIPD). El Salvador further reported that progress with its system for health information (SIS) has been enhanced to record access to employment, educational opportunities, sexual and reproductive health, recreation, tourism, among many others.

12. **Ethiopia** reported that, in early 2011, a campaign involving public media messages was implemented to promote understanding regarding the self reliance of survivors with a view to creating attitudinal change amongst the general public. Ethiopia reported that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) has established a body to coordinate disability issues within the country. The body, which is comprised of 11 regional and local offices mandated to assist with disability services, is supported by international and local non-governmental organisations. Ethiopia also reported its National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy, the Proclamation for the Right to Employment for Persons with Disabilities, and the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities all received status within the

governing body of Ethiopian ministers. In addition, in April 2011, new legislation on pensions was passed by the House of Peoples Representatives with this legislation foreseeing that special provisions would be extended to the survivor of a pensioner if that person has a disability. Ethiopia also reported that the MOLSA and the ICRC are collaborating on a training programme for orthopaedic technicians which would train 24 young students from various regions. In addition, Ethiopia reported on the establishment of many community-based rehabilitation programmes as well as a National Rehabilitation Centre established by the emergency Demobilization and Reintegration Project. Ethiopia further reported that from April to June 2011, UNICEF helped supply over 350 orphans and vulnerable children with disabilities. Finally, Ethiopia noted that Building Proclamation Code No. 624/2009 (concerning physical accessibility) still awaits signatures from various ministries.

13. **Guinea-Bissau** reported having enacted anti-discrimination legislation and having reached an agreement within the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Poverty to fix budget lines for disability. Guinea-Bissau also reported that it provides medical/medicinal assistance, psychosocial support, and professional training to young victims. In addition, Guinea Bissau reported that it is attempting to further strengthen legislation in favour of people with disabilities. Guinea-Bissau reported having renovated a Physical Rehabilitation Centre, with financial support from the Economic Community of West African States and ICRC.

14. **Iraq** reported that the Ministry of Health has begun the implementation of a national project to register persons with disabilities. The aim of this project is to gather information on the quantity, types, and causes of disabilities in Iraq and to use this information as the basis for the planning and development of services. In addition, Iraq reported that in September 2011, the second national workshop on victim assistance/disability was held bringing together representatives from relevant ministries at various levels to conduct a situational analysis and to develop SMART objectives in six areas of victim assistance – emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological reintegration, socio-economic reintegration, data collection and legislation and policies – for inclusion into the first national plan on victim assistance and disability.

15. **Peru** reported on efforts to raise awareness on the Cartagena Action Plan through campaigns implemented by the National Advisory for the Integration of People with Disabilities (CONADIS). Using television and radio broadcasts nationwide in addition to including information with utility bills sent to 1.3 million homes in Lima, Peruvians have been informed of existing rules, regulations and rights for persons with disabilities. Additionally, a campaign called “Respect my space” was launched to promote further awareness. Peru recalled that an Equal Opportunity Plan for Persons with Disabilities has been launched for the period 2009 to 2018 and that a new committee had been created to monitor the compliance rate of the target of 3 percent of workers with disabilities on the payrolls of public entities. Peru also reported that new regulations have established offences and penalties for breach of the General Law for Disabled Persons. Regulations related to the Law on Promoting Access have also been approved with respect to access for persons with disabilities to the Internet and public telephones. Peru also reported that its national mine action programme (CONTRAMINAS) had convened a side event during the 10MSP displaying Peru’s progress in assisting the victims of anti-personnel mines. In addition, CONTRAMINAS, with international cooperation, has been undertaking work to update existing information on victims to include more information and a needs assessment. CONTRAMINAS’ mine victim database has now registered 334 victims, of which 141 are civilians, 118 soldiers and 75 police officers. CONTRAMINAS also has been involved in medical evaluations in two provinces of Peru - Junín and Lima – where over 50 people were provided with medical care, including the delivery of prostheses. In addition,

CONTRAMINAS continued its efforts to implement social and economic reintegration programmes to assist landmine survivors and the families of the deceased.

16. **Serbia** reported that the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has been designated as the decision making authority for providing financial support and protection to citizens of the Republic of Serbia who suffered damage caused by armed conflicts as well as from residual war material on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. With respect to the availability of and accessibility to appropriate services for landmine victims, Serbia reported that all survivors in the Republic of Serbia are integrated within the country's health care system at all levels including in emergency medical care, treatment, physical therapy and rehabilitation, and supplying prosthetic and orthotic aids.

17. **Tajikistan** reported that, since the 10MSP, it has translated the Cartagena Action Plan and used it at various events including: inter-agency victim assistance coordination group meetings, summer camps, meetings with survivors, round-tables, and the United Nations' International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance to Mine Action. Tajikistan reported that the "Law on the Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities" entered into force at the start of 2011. This legislation is designed to assist with the establishment of a coordination council on disability issues and includes provisions regarding accessibility. Tajikistan also reported that, on 14-15 December 2010, it attended the first interstate conference on psychosocial rehabilitation in Kabul, Afghanistan and participated in "peer-to-peer support" training with the Afghanistan Landmine Survivors Organization (ALSO). These bilateral exchanges were useful for both parties. A second inter-country conference of psychosocial rehabilitation took place on 19-20 October 2011. In addition, Tajikistan reported that it continued with efforts to provide capacity building to survivor organisations in the areas of English language and computer training. Tajikistan announced a call for micro-capital grants for the socio-economic reintegration of 25 landmine/ERW survivors and that the organisation of persons with disabilities "Imkonyat" had been selected to implement the project. Tajikistan also reported that, in July 2011, it organised a summer rehabilitation camp for 25 survivors. In addition, Tajikistan reported that it is preparing to conduct a needs assessment of landmine and other ERW victims in mine affected districts with the main goal being to establish a functional victim information system (VIS), which would comply with the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) standards and become a systematic and reliable mechanism at the district and oblast level.

18. **Thailand** reported that 19 people fell victim to mines or other ERW during the period October 2010 to September 2011, compared with 23 in the previous year. Thailand reported that it has established several community-based rehabilitation projects to play a key role in the effective physical, mental and economic rehabilitation of victims. Awareness raising activities have been undertaken mostly through community-based rehabilitation projects. However, Thailand still faces a challenge in ensuring that persons with disabilities register to receive benefits. Since the 10MSP, a multi-agency response plan was formulated as a result of the enactment of new laws on persons with disabilities. Accordingly, landmine victim assistance has been integrated into the government's plan of action. This effectively reduces benefit-approval processes and allows landmine victims to quickly access rehabilitation and reintegration assistance. Thailand further reported that it has extended its cooperation relationships to China after successful projects with the Lao PDR and Burundi. Thailand recalled its Plan on Victim Assistance 2012-2016, which was presented at the 10MSP, and noted that this plan supplements the global efforts towards full implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan.

19. **Uganda** reported on efforts to raise awareness on the Cartagena Action Plan within the country by disseminating it alongside its 2008 Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance in order to create awareness on the linkages between the two plans and demonstrate the improvements contained in the later plan. These efforts led to an

amendment of the national plan to align it with the Cartagena Action Plan as well as with the CRPD. The revised plan covers the period 2010-2014. Uganda intends to commence an assessment of achievements and challenges in implementing the national plan at the start of 2014 and will be in a position to report on its progress at the Third Review Conference. Uganda also reported that it is developing ways to periodically monitor and evaluate the plan to ensure that activities are having a tangible impact on the quality of life of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Poverty has been highlighted as a key challenge among landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in Uganda. In response to this, Uganda launched two key programmes. The first is a country-wide special grant programme intended to assist persons with disabilities in acquiring employable skills and in supporting them to start income-generating activities. The second is the expansion of the social protection programme, a component of which provides disability grants to chronically poor persons with disabilities amongst other vulnerable groups in the community. Uganda also mentioned gender responsiveness, inclusion, and non-discrimination in dealing with disabled children's education.

20. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration also sought to advance victim assistance efforts by experimenting with new ways of using the June 2011 Intersessional Work Programme. This experimentation was conducted pursuant to the 10MSP decision to see that time during the week of meetings of the Standing Committees would be allocated to more intensively focus on national contexts or to otherwise support progress in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan. The Co-Chairs used a small-group format to provide an interactive forum for in-depth cooperation discussions on the challenges of two States Parties (Afghanistan and Uganda) that have: (a) reported responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors; (b) are in the process of implementing a national plan of action on victim assistance/disability; and, (c) volunteered to be the focus of this experimentation session. At this small group session, representatives from Afghanistan and Uganda shared their experiences in implementing their national plans and highlighted persistent challenges faced. The Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation to Afghanistan and Uganda for being the first to volunteer to be the subjects of the more intensive focus and noted that the small group session provided the opportunity for a good exchange of ideas and experiences. It was also noted that focused discussions such as these, with relevant experts present, have the potential to greatly advance efforts and collaboration at the national level. It was noted that any future experimentation sessions would benefit from focusing on a small number of areas to promote more detailed exchange and to ensure a meaningful outcome from the discussions.

21. In June 2011, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration launched the publication **Assisting Landmine and other ERW Survivors in the Context of Disarmament, Disability and Development**. This publication, which Australia commissioned the Implementation Support Unit to produce, brings together over a decade of experience in efforts to assist the victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. The Co-Chairs highlighted that the publication has the potential to promote coherence, closer cooperation and efficiency in collective efforts to implement relevant instruments of international humanitarian and human rights law.

22. At the Cartagena Summit, the States Parties expressed their resolve to provide adequate age- and gender-sensitive assistance to mine victims.<sup>4</sup> In this context, it was noted that at the June 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration that some States Parties reported on this matter. In addition, in

<sup>4</sup> Cartagena Action Plan, paragraph 12.

opening the meeting of the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs addressed the matter of gender by reminding other States Parties of their obligations to gender sensitivity in the Cartagena Action Plan.

23. States Parties continued to take steps to strengthen linkages between the work of the Convention and the work of those involved in disability more generally, including those involved in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). At the 23 June 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, Dr. Tom Shakespeare of the World Health Organization (WHO) was invited to present the landmark **World Report on Disability** to the Standing Committee. Dr. Shakespeare highlighted that the **World Report on Disability** provides evidence for innovative policies and programmes that can improve the lives of persons with disabilities and facilitate the implementation of the CRPD.

24. Linkages between the work of the Convention and the work of those involved in disability more generally were evident at the 30 May to 1 June **Tirana Symposium** on cooperation and assistance as concerns victim assistance. The 10MSP President sought to ensure that organisations such as the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Disability Alliance and the International Disability and Development Alliance would be key participants at this event. As well as concerns linkages, at the 4 March 2011 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, the ISU addressed the Council to highlight that the States Parties to the Convention and the Member States of the CRPD share an agenda and could work closely together.

25. On the margins of the June 2011 meetings of the Standing Committees, the Co-Chairs, with the support of the ISU and the financial assistance of Australia, again convened a parallel programme for victim assistance experts that examined, in-depth, the matter of accessibility. At the parallel programme, experts reviewed the depth and breadth of what constitutes accessibility, benefited from the States' and survivors' experiences as concerns accessibility and exchanged experiences on the application of the Cartagena Action Plan as concerns accessibility.

26. It was noted that 126 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention are also parties to the CRPD, including 17 of the States Parties reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, and Uganda.

---