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

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Agenda item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda
Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention
Assisting the victims: Conclusions and recommendations related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance

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Report on activities and priorities for implementation 2026–2027*,**

Committee on Victim Assistance

Submitted by Austria (Chair), El Salvador, Mozambique and Sri Lanka

Activities of the Committee in 2026

1. On 16 January 2026, the Committee held its first meeting, revisited its mandate[1], and agreed on its 2026 work plan, developed in line with the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP). In preparation for the implementation of its work plan, the Committee reviewed information on the status of implementation of victim assistance and the challenges reported by the 39 States Parties with victim assistance responsibilities[2]. After exploring several thematic areas, the Committee agreed to focus its efforts on access to emergency support and healthcare to draw attention to persistent gaps and the need to strengthen early-stage response capacities.

2. On 11 March 2026, the Committee met to support the States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, including through bilateral meetings in accordance with the Committee's 2026 priorities and work plan. Following a discussion on the appointment of a Gender Focal Point, the representative of Sri Lanka volunteered to serve in this role for 2026. The Committee also discussed preparations for the 2026 Victim Assistance Retreat.

3. On 13 March, the Committee hosted a day-long victim assistance retreat with the participation of the Victim Assistance and Cooperation and Assistance Coordinators of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Victim Assistance Coordinator of Protocol V

* The present document was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent information.
** The present document is being issued without formal editing.
[1] Information on Committee mandate is available on the Convention's website at https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/implementat ion/president-and-committees
[2] The 39 States Parties that reported mine and other EO victims 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, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niger, State of Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

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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 the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Assistive Technology Scale (ATscale), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Humanity & Inclusion, and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on behalf of the Gender and Diversity Working Group.

4. As in previous years, retreat participants reiterated the importance of a united approach to supporting affected States, recognising the shared principles and common understandings of victim assistance across disarmament instruments. Participants shared information on their activities, plans, and priorities, as well as the common challenges they face in victim-assistance or disability-rights efforts. The Committee on Victim Assistance encouraged a cohesive approach to better assist affected States in fulfilling their victim assistance commitments.

5. On 6 March 2026, the Committee delivered a statement at the 61st Human Rights Council (HRC) annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee welcomed a report by the OHCHR on "Disability-inclusive infrastructure, including transport and housing[3]". The statement highlighted that mine survivors experience the same challenges as other persons with disabilities when the physical environment remains inaccessible. The Committee stressed that a disability-inclusive approach to infrastructure is not only a development priority but also a rights-based obligation under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and noted that the SRAAP aligns with this framework by encouraging States Parties to integrate accessibility standards into national infrastructure policies.

6. On 17 March 2026, the Committee met with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including Ms Miyeon Kim (Chairperson), Ms Amalia Gamio (Vice-Chair), Mr Abdelmajid Makni (Vice-Chair), Mr Christopher Nwanoro (Vice-Chair), and representatives of the CRPD Secretariat. The Committees exchanged views on their respective mandates, activities and priorities, underscoring the importance of a non-discriminatory approach to victim assistance and disability inclusion. The Committee on Victim Assistance also briefed the CRPD Committee on ongoing casualties and encouraged increased attention to the rights and needs of mine survivors, including during the review of CRPD country reports submitted by States Parties with mine victims.

7. On 26 March 2026, the Committee delivered a statement at the closing session of the CRPD Committee in Geneva. The statement reaffirmed the strong alignment between victim assistance under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the CRPD, recalling that all 39 States Parties with mine victims are also parties to the CRPD. It highlighted the ten victim-assistance actions of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan, the Committee's engagement with human rights mechanisms, and the shared commitment to strengthening synergies, including through work on General Comment No. 11. The Committee also drew attention to ongoing challenges faced by mine survivors—particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas—and encouraged continued consideration of their situation during CRPD reviews, while inviting closer cooperation in the period ahead.

8. On 19 May 2026, the Committee delivered an intervention at the World Health Assembly, welcoming the continued global focus on strengthening rehabilitation within health systems. The statement underscored the commitments of Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention States Parties to ensuring timely, affordable and high-quality rehabilitation for mine and other explosive ordnance (EO) survivors, in line with the SRAAP. It highlighted growing rehabilitation needs in mine-affected countries, including rising casualties, ageing survivors and limited services in rural and remote areas, and echoed calls from recent regional dialogues for stronger national systems, improved referral pathways and investment in the

[3] https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc6132-disability-inclusive-infrastructure-including-transport-and

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rehabilitation workforce. The Committee also reaffirmed support for the implementation of resolution WHA76.6, the development of global rehabilitation indicators, and the importance of accessible assistive technologies and inclusive participation of persons with disabilities.

9. Between February and April 2026, and again in June 2026, the Committee held bilateral meetings with several States Parties with reported mine victims, including Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kuwait, Mauritania, Mozambique, State of Palestine, Senegal, South Sudan and Uganda to discuss progress and challenges in implementing Actions 30–39 of the SRAAP. These exchanges focused on persistent gaps in data collection, coordination and service delivery, as well as existing mechanisms for cooperation and assistance, such as the Individualised Approach. The Committee encouraged the use of the Victim Assistance checklist to establish baselines for victim assistance implementation.

10. On 10 June 2026, the Committee delivered a statement at the nineteenth session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP19) to the CRPD in New York. The statement highlighted the victim assistance commitments under the SRAAP, emphasising its ten dedicated actions on victim assistance and its strengthened synergies with the CRPD. As mentioned all Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention States Parties reporting mine victims are also parties to the CRPD, demonstrating the strong complementarity between the two conventions. Drawing on the Committee's recent engagement with human rights mechanisms and regional dialogues, the statement encouraged continued attention to the rights and needs of mine and other EO survivors, including through inclusive participation, improved data systems and accessible services. The Committee also expressed support for COSP19's focus on advancing disability inclusion and reaffirmed its commitment to deepening cooperation with the CRPD community.

11. In May and early June 2026, in line with its mandate, the Committee developed preliminary observations on updates provided by 25 States Parties (Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe) on their victim assistance efforts through their Article 7 Reports ahead of the 15–18 June 2026 Intersessional Meetings.

12. During the Intersessional Meetings, the Chair of the Committee and the gender focal points presented their observations on implementation. These observations included State-specific observations as well as general observations on implementation based on the information submitted by the States Parties in their Article 7 reports. These observations can be found here: https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/im26/documents-1.

13. The Committee organised a panel discussion for the plenary of the Intersessional Meetings entitled "Thematic Panel: Sustaining Assistance Through Stronger National Systems and Inclusive Policies"[4]. The panel aimed to address sustainability in assistance provided to mine and other EO victims. Expert panellists called for victim assistance to be fully integrated into national policies, plans, budgets, and legal frameworks related to disability rights, rehabilitation, health, mental health, education, employment, development, and poverty reduction. The panel explored how these commitments can be fully realised, what progress has been achieved and how to address remaining challenges.

14. The Committee participated in the Individualised Approach meeting organized by South Sudan with the support of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance and the Implementation Support Unit. This event was held on the margins of the 15-18 June 2026 Intersessional Meetings and was the first time that an Individualised Approach meeting was held to explore the progress and challenges in the implementation of a State's victim assistance commitments.

[4] The recording of the panel is available at the Convention's website: https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/intersessional-meetings/im26 (day 2, afternoon session).

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15. In August–September 2026, the Committee developed preliminary observations on updates provided by four additional States Parties (Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Uganda) on their efforts to implement victim assistance.

16. During the second and third quarters of 2026, the Committee, with support from the Implementation Support Unit, prepared the first two modules as part of the update of the 2011 publication on "Assisting Landmine and Other ERW Survivors in the Context of Disarmament, Disability and Development". The updates further support the States Parties in implementing victim assistance. Following an introductory section, the first module focuses on advancing the understanding of victim assistance, while the second module addresses emergency and long-term healthcare.

17. In the lead-up to the 23MSP, the Committee worked with other Committees on a joint document in light of the recommendation of the Fifth Review Conference that "the Committees should continue their efforts of increasing and strengthening their coordination, including by examining implementation by States Parties in a more holistic manner and submitting joint conclusions on the status of implementation."

Priorities of the Committee in 2027

18. In accordance with its mandate, the Committee will continue working to improve reporting by all the States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control, and will encourage in particular those that have not submitted an Article 7 Report and/or have not provided information on victim assistance implementation in their report – Albania, Burundi, Chile, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Thailand and Ukraine – to submit a report as soon as possible. In 2025, the Committee observed that updates provided by Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria included information only on casualties. The Committee will encourage these States Parties to provide updates on all aspects of victim assistance implementation. The Committee will continue supporting the States Parties in strengthening the quality of reports, including by encouraging the use of the Guide to Reporting and the Victim Assistance Checklist.

19. Informed by information submitted by the States Parties with mine and other EO victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control on implementation of the SRAAP, in 2027 the Committee will work with the States Parties to seek increased attention on the following areas which were identified as underreported or insufficiently detailed in 2026 or over the previous years:

(a) Improving the quality and disaggregation of casualty and victim data, including sex, age and disability (Action 32, indicators 1–3);

(b) Strengthening national coordination mechanisms, including clarity of roles, regular meetings, participation of survivor representative organisations, and linkages between national and sub-national levels (Action 33, indicators 1–3);

(c) Developing or updating national action plans that are measurable, time-bound, costed, and integrated into broader disability, health and social protection frameworks (Action 33, indicator 4);

(d) Expanding availability, accessibility and affordability of rehabilitation and assistive technology, including efforts to increase national production capacity (Action 35, indicators 2–3);

(e) Integrating psychological and psychosocial support into national systems, including structured peer-to-peer support and community-based mental health services (Action 36, indicators 1–2); and

(f) Improving accessibility to services, including physical accessibility, transport support, financial barriers and availability in rural and remote areas (Actions 34–36).

20. The Committee will continue working with the States Parties to highlight the importance of integrating victim assistance into broader national frameworks, particularly policies and programmes related to the implementation of the CRPD, national disability

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strategies, health sector plans, and social protection systems. The Committee will encourage States Parties to report on how integration has improved continuity, sustainability and reach of services.

21. The Committee will continue raising awareness on victim assistance in other forums such as the Human Rights Council, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, UN General Assembly Third Committee, the World Health Assembly and other relevant forums, including by highlighting rehabilitation system strengthening, accessibility, and mental health needs.

22. The Committee will continue its efforts to capitalise on synergies with other disarmament, human rights, health, and disability frameworks, including through continued organisation of an inclusive retreat early in the year to coordinate implementation efforts as much as possible.

23. The Committee, with the support of the Implementation Support Unit, will continue updating the 2011 publication "Assisting Landmine and Other ERW Survivors in the Context of Disarmament, Disability and Development" in modules. The purpose of these modules is to assist the States Parties in strengthening victim assistance planning, implementation and reporting, including by providing practical guidance aligned with the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan and reflecting good practices identified through Committee observations and States Parties' reports. In 2027, two more modules, one on rehabilitation and assistive technology and another on mental health and psychosocial support will be developed and presented to the States Parties.

24. The Committee will continue to engage with the States Parties to promote consideration of gender and diversity in victim assistance activities, including by encouraging disaggregation of casualty and victim assistance data and by promoting reporting on specific measures addressing the needs of women, men, boys, girls, older persons and other groups at risk of exclusion.

25. The Committee observed that the States Parties consistently report shortages of resources as one of the key challenges affecting victim assistance efforts; therefore, the Committee will encourage attention to the importance of:

(a) Developing or strengthening national resource mobilisation plans for victim assistance, including identification of domestic budget lines and long-term financing needs (Action 41, indicator 2); and

(b) Taking advantage of the individualised approach to engage interested partners and donors, including through targeted follow-up to Committee observations (Action 41, indicator 3).

26. In collaboration with the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, the Committee will encourage peer exchanges and cooperation among the States Parties in need and the States Parties in a position to share their experience and best practices, including exchanges on data systems, rehabilitation system strengthening, accessibility, and survivor participation.

27. The Committee welcomes continued support provided through the European Union Council Decision in support of the SRAAP for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and looks forward to its important role in supporting the implementation of victim assistance at national and regional levels, including through capacity development, data system strengthening, and support to national coordination mechanisms.

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