



PARALLEL PROGRAMME FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE EXPERTS

22 MAY 2012

Background:

In 2004 at the Convention's First Review Conference, the States Parties adopted the Nairobi Action Plan. In Action #39 of the Nairobi Action Plan, it was agreed that all States Parties would "ensure an effective contribution in all relevant deliberations by health, rehabilitation and social services professionals and officials inter alia by encouraging States Parties – particularly those with the greatest number of mine victims – and relevant organizations to include such individuals on their delegations."

Beginning in 2005, the Convention's informal Sponsorship Programme sought to support the application of Action #39 by sponsoring participation in the Convention's meetings by States Parties' delegates who fit the profile of "health, rehabilitation and social services professionals". As perhaps only 20 percent of meeting time concerns matters pertinent to "health, rehabilitation and social services professionals," much of their time at these meetings was not being maximised.

Consequently, the Parallel Programme for Victim Assistance Experts was established. It was held for the first time at the April 2007 meetings of the Standing Committees. The programme was established in response to the need to make the best possible use by relevant experts representing the States Parties reporting responsibility for significant numbers of landmine survivors participating in the work of the Ban Convention. The idea was initiated by the Implementation Support Unit with a view to Parallel Programmes being convened by Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance.

The intent of the Parallel Programme was and is to stimulate discussion and increase the knowledge of States Parties' expert participants on key components of victim assistance and to build the capacity of these experts. The Parallel Programme for Victim Assistance Experts has continued at each set of meetings of the Standing Committees and at each formal meeting since 2007 and has provided a productive forum for experts to increase their knowledge on key components of victim assistance through training and the sharing of experiences.

A focus on the implementation of national plans:

The States Parties have agreed in Action #27 of the Cartagena Action Plan (CAP) that a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the rights and needs of victims and survivors and other persons with disabilities requires a national plan of action to facilitate coordination and implementation of activities. Most of the States Parties that have reported a responsibility for significant numbers of survivors have developed a national plan or strategy on disability and / or a national plan on the rights and needs of survivors in the broader context of disability. The May 2012 Parallel Programme will focus on implementation of these plans with two main discussion topics:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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coordination in the implementation of national plans, and, monitoring of the implementation of national plans pursuant to Actions # 24 and # 28 of the CAP.

Coordination in the Implementation of National Plans

Action #24 of the Cartagena Action Plan encourages States Parties to establish inter-ministerial / inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relevant national plans, policies and legal frameworks and to ensure that this focal entity has the authority and resources to carry out its task.

The purpose of this discussion is to highlight challenges that have been encountered in the implementation of national plans and to identify ways to overcome these challenges.

Participants are asked to come prepared to address questions such as: Are the efforts of all relevant actors contributing to / being carried out in the context of a national plan? How can coordination be improved? How can international and non-governmental organizations strengthen national ownership and further contribute to the fulfillment of national objectives? What can States Parties do to be more inclusive in implementation?

Monitoring the Implementation of National Plans

Action #28 of the Cartagena Action Plan encourages states to monitor and evaluate progress regarding victim assistance within broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and to do this on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, States have committed to report on the progress made, including resources allocated to achieving their objectives to address the rights and needs of mine victims.

The purpose of this discussion is to highlight challenges that have been encountered in monitoring the implementation of national plans and to identify ways to overcome these challenges.

Participants are asked to come prepared to address questions such as: Are all relevant actors involved in monitoring implementation? How is implementation measured, in terms of outputs, outcomes and impact?

PROGRAMME – TUESDAY 22 MAY

10:00

Opening of the Parallel Programme for Victim Assistance Experts

Location: Salle B, Ground Floor, WMO Building, 7bis Avenue de la Paix, Geneva

The programme will be opened by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance (Algeria and Croatia) and will feature the participation of the President of the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP), H.E. Prak Sokhonn of Cambodia.

10:15

Coordination in the Implementation of National Plans

Scene-setting presentation: ICBL

States Parties' experts should come prepared to share their experiences concerning the following questions:

- What are the main challenges encountered in ensuring a coordinated approach to the implementation of national plans?
- Are the efforts of all relevant actors contributing to / being carried out in the context of a national plan?
- How can coordination be improved?
- How can international and non-governmental organizations strengthen national ownership and further contribute to the fulfilment of national objectives?
- What can be done to ensure that landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities are involved in implementation?

13:00

Break for lunch and side events

15:00

Monitoring the Implementation of National Plans

Scene-setting presentation: ICRC

States Parties' experts should come prepared to share their experiences concerning the following questions:

- What are the main challenges encountered in monitoring the implementation of national plans?
- Are all relevant actors involved in monitoring implementation of national plans?
- How is implementation measured, in terms of outputs, outcomes and impact?

Participatory exercise on monitoring the implementation of national plans

18:00

Parallel Programme ends