

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION –ANGOLA

#### COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE (Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand) Intersessional Meetings 22-24 June 2021

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Angola of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

2. The Committee observed that Angola reported 13 casualties in 2020 of which 2 boys, 1 girl and 1 woman were killed, and 2 men and 7 boys were injured, and it would welcome additional disaggregated information on all registered mine victims.

#### **VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:**

#### **Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action 33 and also Actions #1 and #6)**

3. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that victim assistance was primarily implemented by the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) in collaboration with national stakeholders. Angola had reported that the Ministry for Social, Family of Women's Affairs (MASFAMU) had been responsible to meet the needs and rights of mine victims and persons with disabilities, while the Ministry of Former Combatants and Veterans of War (MACVP) provided assistance to military and the police veterans.

#### **Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Action #33 and also Action #2)**

4. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that CNIDAH was implementing a victim assistance plan and had faced challenges in its implementation due to persistent shortages of resources. Like in 2020, the Committee encourages Angola to improve the action plan including by taking gender equality and diversity into consideration. The Committee would also welcome an electronic copy of the action plan.

#### **Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)**

5. The Committee recalls that Angola in 2020 reported having a national law in place ensuring access to services and that because of scarce resources implementation has remained a challenge.
6. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made in 2020 to address any barriers that hamper participation and inclusion of mine victims on equal basis with other members of their society.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)**

7. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported facing challenges in implementing multi-sectoral policy.
8. The Committee would welcome updates on efforts made to address the challenge to apply multi-sectoral efforts and information on alignment of victim assistance activities with provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Establish or strengthen of a centralised database / national information management system (Action #35 and also Action #9)**

9. The Committee would welcome information on availability of, or progress made in establishing of a centralised database including information on persons killed or injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability.

**Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)**

10. The Committee recalls that Angola in 2020 had reported the availability of first aid and emergency medical care and indicated that such services were primarily provided by the Angolan Red Cross, NGOs and healthcare centres. Angola had also reported the need to upgrade healthcare equipment and for refresher first aid training to villagers in affected communities.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

11. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that a referral system has been in place within primary healthcare and that a national directory of services will be developed, subject to availability of resources. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

**Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)**

12. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported provision of rehabilitation services through 11 rehabilitation centres across the country, and that there was an urgent need for renewal of equipment and capacity building of technicians of the entire rehabilitation team.
13. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made with regards to renewal of rehabilitation equipment and increasing capacity of rehabilitation personnel in 2020.

**Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)**

14. The Committee would welcome information on progress made in providing psychological and psychosocial including peer to peer support to mine victims in 2020.

**Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)**

15. The Committee would welcome information on efforts made to meet social and economic needs of mine victims in 2020.

**Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)**

16. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported safety and protection of people in situations of disaster is part of the Civil Protection Commission's mandate.

17. The Committee would welcome information on measures in place through the Civil Protection Commission or other entities to ensure the safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Action #41 and also Action #4)**

18. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Angola reported that mine survivors and their representative organisations had been included in relevant programmes and policies, except in rural and remote areas and that more would need to be done to implement national laws with regards to participation and inclusion of mine survivors. The Committee would welcome an update in this regard.

**CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

**Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)**

19. The Committee acknowledges the financial efforts undertaken in the mine clearance and would welcome information on financial or other commitments Angola made to address the needs of mine victims.

**Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)**

20. The Committee acknowledges the importance expressed by Angola in gender integration and inclusion into the mine action programmes and in this regard, would welcome additional information on progress made and/or measures put in place to ensure gender equality and diversity in victim assistance activities.

**Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments (Action #8)**

21. The Committee recalls that Angola reported shortages in financial resources as a major challenge affecting all aspects of its victim assistance implementation.

22. The Committee would welcome information on how the international community could be of further support to Angola's efforts in fulfilling its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.