

**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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Item 11(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**

**Conclusions and recommendations  
Committee on Victim Assistance  
(Belgium, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador)**

**Addendum**

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## Afghanistan

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Afghanistan of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

2. The Committee concluded that since 2001 the number of casualties fell significantly from a monthly average of 175 to 36. Since 2013 however, the number of casualties has risen to reach a monthly average of 142 in 2016. The Committee concluded that 60 percent of those casualties were caused by improvised anti-personnel mine (Pressure Plate IED) incidents with 1,023 civilian casualties reported from April 2016 to March 2017. The Committee noted that further information on the sex and age disaggregation of data related to victims would be welcome.

3. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

(a) A five year (2017-2022) Victim Assistance Plan was developed and shared with stakeholders. Afghanistan further reported that the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has developed a National Strategy for Disability and Rehabilitation 2016-2020. Furthermore, Afghanistan reports that the Ministry of Education has developed a National Strategic Plan (1396-1400) with a section on inclusive education. Afghanistan also reported that it has drafted a technical note for psychosocial counselling and peer support for its National Standards;

(b) A disability and community based rehabilitation task force has been in place for almost eight years and provides strong technical guidance to the MoPH. In 2016, six meetings of the disability taskforce were held and the highlight achievement was the reviewing and updating of the new disability and physical rehabilitation strategy (2016-2022) for the health sector;

(c) In 2016, the MoPH decided to change the strategy to national strategic plan in disability and physical rehabilitation which is not yet finalized. Afghanistan further reported that in 2016 non-technical and technical standards for physiotherapy and prosthetic and orthotic with the standards having been translated and reviews and are currently being approved by the MoPH;

(d) Victim assistance, along with other sectors of action of former UNMACA (UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan), has been transferred to DMAC (Directorate of Mine Action Coordination) during 2016 and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled is the focal point for victim assistance issues.

4. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Afghanistan on this Action 14. In particular, the Committee noted that Afghanistan developed a new disability and physical rehabilitation strategy for the period 2016-2020. The Committee would welcome receiving a copy of this new strategy.

5. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on a number of activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all victims, regardless of their gender and age including:

(a) Information on the Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme III (ACAP III) to support Victim Assistance / Disability activities of the UNMAS/DMAC with 2'734 teachers and 1'849 Community Health Workers (CHW) of the Ministry of Public Health trained on Victim Assistance/Disability in 19 Provinces;

(b) Coordination of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) by MoPH with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled with is a well-established strategy

for inclusion, provision of equal opportunities and empowerment of persons with disabilities in 20 of 34 Provinces;

(c) Training in 2016 by the Disability and Rehabilitation Department (DRD) of 1,857 CHWs in 14 provinces in disability awareness, physical rehabilitation and UNCRPD issues to improve access of war victims and persons with disabilities to health and rehabilitation services in the country;

(d) Training through DRD with the financial support of donors including the European Commission of 20 orthopaedic technicians from Kunar, Khost, Bamyan and Kabul with 20 students graduating in November 2016; training of 230 physiotherapists and 40 orthopaedic technicians from the above provinces where there are no physiotherapists and where the need for physiotherapists exists with the training starting in August 2016 in 7 training centres with 230 students under a 3 year diploma training Programme and in 2 additional training centres with 40 technicians.

6. The Committee concluded that Afghanistan had communicated challenges it faced in the implementation of its victim assistance activities including lack of funding to carry out planned projects.

7. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Actions 12, 13 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

8. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Afghanistan on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## Albania

9. The Committee welcomes the submission by Albania of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

10. The Committee concluded that Albania was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

(a) Albania noted that there are at least 998 UXO casualties (151 killed and 847 injured) in Albania and that desegregated data by age and gender is available for every prefecture/region of Albania;

(b) Recently, a “Needs Assessment of Socio-Economic and Medical needs of marginalised Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania” was conducted all over Albania with the financial support of the Austrian Government, and the US Government through International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security. The assessment focused in reviewing the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and drafting due recommendations for the Government to provide them with relevant assistance;

(c) Albania reported on the “major needs identified from the above projects”;

(d) Almost all survivors want to participate in recreational activities and psychosocial support to overcome the trauma, including in the peer support programmes. A national workshop with participation of all stakeholders including donors was held in 2016, presenting all the findings from the needs assessment projects;

(e) Based on the above needs assessments, the US Department of State through ITF Enhancing Human Security will fund two projects in victim assistance in Albania during 2017.

11. The Committee concluded that Albania is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have

been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

(a) There is a National Plan aiming to support the mine/UXO victims throughout Albania. The plan complies with several International treaties ratified by Albania, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(b) The implementation of the National Plan contributes to the emergency, medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, data collection, as well as to the implementation of relevant laws and policies for all mine/UXO victims throughout Albania.

12. The Committee welcomed the information provided by Albania on this Action 14. In particular, the Committee noted that Albania had a National Plan in place to support victims. The Committee concluded that it would welcome a copy of this National Plan and further information on how the Plan addresses matters concerning the objectives of the Maputo Action Plan.

13. The Committee concluded that Albania was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all victims, regardless of their gender and age:

The Prosthetic Workshop in the Regional Hospital of Kukes was upgraded with equipment, raw materials and relevant elements to repair and produce prostheses and orthoses. During 2016, the Prosthetic Workshop at Kukes Regional Hospital was able to support about 42 amputees with new prostheses and 40 others with major repairs.

14. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Action 13 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

15. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Albania on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

16. The Committee welcomes the submission by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

17. The Committee noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina's Mine Action Centre database has been updated with 17 victims including the location, victims' identity and assistance provided. The Committee noted that there are 8'382 victims in Bosnia/Herzegovina with a total of 12 victims in 2016 and 3 victims in 2017 (to March). The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina's database contains information disaggregated by number of victims, seasonal variations, age group, fatal/nonfatal injuries, and origin of the casualties, gender, types of mine/device and residence place.

18. The Committee concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all victims, regardless of their gender and age:

(a) Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that the Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted a decision on forming a coordination group for victim assistance, and the process of formalisation of documents commenced through ministerial

bodies. During this reporting period, a preliminary coordination meeting of this working group was held in order to improve coordination.

(b) Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that in 2016, four mine victim assistance projects were carried out for the victims of mines/ERW/cluster munitions on credit financing, assistance in employment, economic empowerment of amputees and lump-sum mine victim assistance with 44 beneficiaries.

19. The Committee concluded that it would welcome updates on the results of these efforts.

20. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Actions 12, 13, 14 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

21. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Bosnia and Herzegovina on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## Cambodia

22. The Committee welcomes the submission by Cambodia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

23. The Committee concluded that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

The Quality of Life Survey (QLS) for mine survivors and other persons with disabilities reached 850 villages, 163 Communes, 54 Districts in 25 provinces and directly interviewed 7,860 persons with disabilities (2,362 women) including 1,815 landmine/ERW survivors (133 Women). The survey found that most of the survivors met received assistance and few of them lacked access to services.

24. The Committee noted that in 2016, Cambodia reported 26 people were killed or injured by anti-personnel mines. The Committee concluded that this represents a significant reduction since 2016 (111). The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Cambodia was disaggregated by gender and age.

25. The Committee concluded that Cambodia has delegated the responsibility for landmine/ERW victim assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), where it is most appropriately addressed with the Disability Action Council (DAC) Secretariat supporting the MoSVY in the area of general disabilities.

26. The Committee noted that the Department of Victim Assistance of CMAAS is working with the MoSVY, People with Disability Foundations and DAC to obtain information on services provided to landmine/ERW victim and to conduct the QLS by CMAA volunteer survivor networks across the country. The Committee further noted that in July 2014 the National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018 was in place and disseminated to relevant ministries and disability stakeholders. The Committee concluded that it would welcome receiving a copy of the Disability Strategic Plan.

27. The Committee concluded that Cambodia was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

(a) In 2016, 28'061 persons with disabilities, including mine /ERW survivors received physical rehabilitation from Physical Rehabilitation Centres (PRCs) such as prosthetic, orthotic, wheelchairs, tricycles and walking aids including crutches, canes, and walking frames and repairs. A total of 13'828 People with disabilities, including

mine/ERW survivors received support in areas such as physiotherapy and surgery. Additionally, 54 people with disabilities, including mine / ERW survivors were trained at vocational training centres;

(b) Community based rehabilitation services, available in 25 provinces, had provided education, health care, disability empowerment, prostheses, orthotics, wheelchairs/tricycles distributed and repaired interviews for referral to other service providers, client attended the gender training, job placement and self-help group setting up to 1'985 groups;

(c) Cambodia organised a disability and mine survivor forum at a sub-national level in order to discuss the needs of those disabled by landmines with a total of 120 landmine/ERW survivors (23 women) and people with disabilities participating.

(d) The Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019 adopted at the Third Review Conference was translated into local language and ready to disseminate to the relevant stakeholders.

28. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Actions 13, 14 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

29. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Cambodia on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## **Croatia**

30. The Committee welcomes the submission by Croatia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

31. Croatia reported that, in 2016, there were 5 mine accidents involving 7 deminers, three of which were killed and four with light injuries. Croatia reported that the annual rate of victims increased by four in relation to 2015. The Committee concluded that information on victims disaggregated by gender and age would be welcome.

32. The Committee concluded that Croatia was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

Efforts to provide advisory support to victims and their families and to collect data on their needs is carried out during non-technical survey in continuation of a 2014 project conducted by Government Office for Mine Action and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) to establish a Mine Victim Database.

33. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on these efforts. In particular, the Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the results of data collection efforts and efforts to establish the Mine Victim Database.

34. The Committee concluded that Croatia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of victims:

(a) In accordance with the Law on Mine Action, victim assistance is coordinated by the Office for Mine Action in co-operation with CROMAC, relevant ministries and NGOs to improve the quality of life of people injured by mines and UXOs and their families;

(b) Public health care structures have been established (clinical centres, specialised polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres) with people injured by mines and UXOs entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopaedic aids as covered by

the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. These rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations. Other support is provided by the non-governmental sector, with funding from international and domestic entities.

35. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on the budgets allocated for the implementation of victim assistance efforts.

36. The Committee concluded that Croatia was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities, among others, to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all victims, regardless of their gender and age:

(a) In 2016, "MineAid" continued with implementation of the "Knowledge-Opportunity-Sinergy" project in Sisak-Moslavina County, the second most mine-contaminated county in Croatia, which involved unemployed women aged 30-65 and youth aged 15-29, including beneficiaries on social welfare living in socially deprived areas, ethnic minorities, victims of domestic violence etc. The project was finalised in May 2016 and resulted in 299 counselling sessions and support to the development of 10 business plans;

(b) A workshop was held in the Town of Petrinja by the Association of Persons with Disabilities for the purpose of consulting and engaging with employers in the local community. The beneficiaries were familiarised with the work and employment opportunities in the Association, the steps to establish an association and achieve employment through the project;

(c) A workshop titled "How to establish a family farm and what are the basic techniques of integrated practical sustainability" was organised in the City of Sisak to provide information on establishing a farm including the documentation required and characteristics of family farms as well as practical techniques of integrated sustainability and permaculture and how to apply them in family farm scheme.

37. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Actions 13 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

38. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Croatia on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## Serbia

39. The Committee welcomes the submission by Serbia of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

40. The Committee concluded that Serbia is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

(a) In 2015 the government adopted the decision on establishment of the Intersectional working group on the application of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention which includes representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia and is to monitor the progress made in providing assistance to victims within national plans and legal frameworks including the following:

- i. Promote measures to enhance the socio-economic situation of landmine survivors;
- ii. Promote measures to enhance the legislative frameworks for the protection of victims;

- iii. Monitor alignment with the applicable legislation regulating the protection of victims with international legislation and national law;
- iv. Propose special programmes and measures to promote and strengthen the capacity of victims for public life;
- v. Cooperation with the associations of mine victims and civil society organisations involved in enhancement of the socio-economic situation of victims;
- vi. Cooperation with relevant institutions from abroad, international organisations and national working groups of the equivalent or similar profile with view to sharing experiences and good practices;
- vii. Monitor progress regarding the provision of assistance to victims within wider national plans and legal framework;
- viii. Mapping all existing services.

(b) The Strategy for promoting the status of persons with disabilities 2007-2015 is in force which recognises their equal rights with those of other persons with disabilities (the rights of disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans);

(c) Serbia is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that under the law professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities is carried out on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life, in accordance with their professional skills;

(d) The law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities was adopted and entered into force on May 23, 2009 and that the provisions of the laws required employees that employ fifty employees to engage one person with disabilities entered into force on 24 May 2010.

41. The Committee concluded that Serbia was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

(a) All municipalities have services for the protection of veterans and the disabled for specific types of assistance;

(b) Social protection services designed to extend quality assistance in the field of social welfare are available in rural areas.

42. The Committee concluded that more information on these efforts and services would be welcome.

43. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Actions 12, 13 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

44. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Serbia on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## **Thailand**

45. The Committee welcomes the submission by Thailand of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. The Committee further welcomes the additional information submitted by Thailand to the Committee regarding its efforts. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:



46. The Committee concluded that Thailand was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

(a) The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MoSDHS) makes use of volunteer networks to assist persons with disabilities, such as identifying persons with disabilities in community and their needs, registration for disability identification cards, communications with persons with disability/families/ local administrative officers and other related agencies;

(b) In accordance with the law, Thailand has established two types of Disability Service Centres: Provincial Persons with Disability Service Centres, operated by the central government and General persons with Disabilities Service Centres operated by any governmental and non-governmental agencies related to the empowerment of persons with disabilities including local administration organisations. The Government has allocated to date 650'000 USD to the Disability Service Centres.

47. The Committee noted that Thailand reported 9 mine casualties (8 injured and 1 killed) and that the significant decrease in the number of landmine victims is the result of better marking of suspected hazardous, improved MRE activities (especially in schools) and the reduction of mine-contaminated areas near urban zones.

48. The Committee concluded that Thailand was acting upon its commitment under Action 13 by reporting on the following time-bound and measurable objectives it seeks to achieve through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute, to the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society:

(a) Promote collaboration between the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) and the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC);

(b) Promote the provision of physical rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities with participation of local communities;

(c) Provide psychological support and advice;

(d) Protect the rights of persons with disabilities;

(e) Support persons with disabilities with the increasing costs of living;

(f) Coordinate and refer persons with disabilities to access further services;

(g) Involve persons with disabilities in decision making level to design policies, plans, projects on disability issues.

49. The Committee concluded that Thailand is acting upon its commitment under Action 14 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following enhancements that have been made or will be made to disability, health, social welfare, education, employment, development and poverty reduction plans, policies and legal frameworks needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and on budgets allocated for their implementation:

(a) NIEM and the TMAC have begun to collaborate with the NIEM local emergency medical service unit being on standby during mine clearance operations to prepare for possible mine accidents. The two agencies have also conducted joint emergency medical trainings which will also support deminers to become well-prepared for on-site emergency medical treatment for victim of mines and other accidents;

(b) Development of the Strategic Plan for the Health Care System Development for Persons with Disabilities, B.E. 2560-2564 (2017-2021) is being put in place to ensure that caregivers and volunteers in the community are given primary health care training;

(c) Enhancements have been made to legislations, policies and plans concerning economic inclusions including a cabinet resolution dated February 16, 2016 provides that persons with disabilities who are registered for disability identification cards are eligible to

immediately received disability allowance by requesting the Ministry of Interior to revise the rules of disability allowance payment for persons with disabilities.

50. The Committee concluded that Thailand was acting upon its commitment under Action 15 of the Maputo Action Plan by reporting on the following activities to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate comprehensive rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age:

(a) The Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health organised and promoted CBR and has developed knowledge management projects on different topics including “The role of local administration in promoting health and quality of life of persons with disability” and “approached health care organisations in the community for persons with disabilities”;

(b) The DMA also supported the CBR programs in 15 hospitals in four regions of Thailand;

(c) 152 Community Learning Centres (CLC) in 76 provinces of Thailand including 10 centres in Bangkok and 27 centres in mine affected areas provide teams of professionals for the local community consisting of social workers, psychologists, local offices and teachers;

(d) The MoSDHS implements the CBR model for psychological support services and each year each CLC provide services for at least 500 persons with disabilities;

(e) Persons with disability can apply to receive interest-free loans at an amount not exceeding 1’333 USD for 5 years. The Department of Local Administration has allocated a budget for disability allowance and the Government aims to increase the monthly disability allowance from a rate of 500 baht (14 USD) to the rate of 800 baht (27 USD);

(f) The Ministry of Labour and the MoSDHS continuously work to raise awareness of the regulations among government agencies and private companies in order to increase the rate of employment of persons with disabilities;

(g) The Fund of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has allocated 97 million USD to be loaned for self-employment of persons with disabilities and their caregivers;

(h) To promote independent living and participation of persons with disabilities in their communities the MoSDHS has made available 550 personal assistants, 555 sign language interpreters, 2,498 house modifications, and 3,053 volunteers, and 152 CLC to support persons with disabilities, including mine survivors. Thailand reported that the Government allocated a budget for personal assistance (approximately 1.2 million USD since 2011 to present as well as a budget for housing modifications (approximately 3.6 million USD since 2011 to present;

(i) Thailand supports the establishment of affiliated government agencies to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities in areas such as capacity building. Thailand’s support in this area equals USD 17,333,841. Thailand is also aiming at integrating technology to enhance the level of service to persons with disabilities which would improve communications between service providers and persons with disability while easing access to welfare.

51. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Action 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

52. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Thailand on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.

## Zimbabwe

53. The Committee welcomes the submission by Zimbabwe of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2016 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following conclusions:

54. Zimbabwe reported that in 2016, 3 victims were identified including 2 boys and 1 man. The Committee concluded that the information on casualties provided by Zimbabwe was disaggregated by gender and age.

55. The Committee concluded that Zimbabwe was acting upon its commitment to assess the needs of mine victims, the availability and gaps in services and support, and existing or new requirements for disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction activities needed to meet the needs of mine victims, and to refer victims to existing services where possible in accordance with Action 12 by reporting the following:

(a) Zimbabwe is in the process of collecting data and statistics on mine victims and ZIMAC is coordinating efforts to set up a mine victim database through coordination with other Ministries;

(b) Currently, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for persons with disabilities (including mine victims) which provides services (medical care, physical rehabilitation, social welfare, economic and social inclusion) to beneficiaries regardless of the cause of disability.

56. The Committee noted that the HALO Trust in Zimbabwe assists mine victims with referrals to acquire prosthetic limbs. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on this coordination effort.

57. The Committee concluded that it would welcome additional information on efforts carried out by Zimbabwe to put a system in place to conduct assessments as well as referral of victims to existing services.

58. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe reported the following challenges in the implementation of its victim assistance commitments:

(a) The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is responsible for the social welfare of all people living with disabilities, mine victims inclusive. However, limitations in funding inhibit the full implementation of rehabilitating efforts for mine victims;

(b) There are no rehabilitation centres, specialist doctors, prosthetics and physical therapists in some areas of Zimbabwe and that many individuals who come from rural areas, including landmine victims either cannot afford to travel to access these special services or cannot spend long periods away from their families or means of income. Poverty is widespread in rural areas, which the Government is trying to reduce by various developmental programmes like Indigenisation and Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET);

(c) Zimbabwe reported that inter-agency coordination of mine action-related activities remains a challenge, which the National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre are looking to bridge by conducting a joint meeting with all line ministries, thus increasing coordination and support to all areas of mine action.

59. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information on efforts to implement Actions 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Maputo Action Plan.

60. The Committee concluded that it would welcome information from Zimbabwe on measurable improvements made in the well-being and the guarantee of rights of mine victims, challenges that remain and priorities for assistance.