



BELGIUM

**2nd Review Conference - Convention on Cluster Munitions
November 2020**

Victim Assistance

We deplore the increase in the numbers of casualties by cluster munitions in 2019 as compared to 2018. 99% of the victims are civilians, many of them are children. Syria remains particularly hard hit with high numbers of casualties.

The provision of adequate and inclusive victim assistance is an obligation to all States Parties of our Convention. It is also essential to allow survivors to exercise their rights and to participate in a full and equal manner in society. No victims should be left behind.

When it comes to assisting victims, we also wish to stress that it is important to ensure synergy with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as well as to make linkages where possible with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

My country attaches great importance to the empowerment of mine victims. Belgium has over the past years been actively involved in the committee on victim assistance of the Ottawa Convention. This year Belgium contributes one million EUR to the ICRC Special Appeal on Disability and Mine Action.