



**Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster
Munitions
10 – 13 September 2013**

GICHD Statement on Victim Assistance

Thank you Mr Chair,

Despite the evolution in international law and the efforts made by State Parties to strengthen their VA programmes, the lack of measurable and comparable information is limiting effective VA.

In most cases, the main obstacles are:

- Absence of a comprehensive information management system for data storage and processing
- Lack of communication and coordination among major actors.

The GICHD is advising national authorities on operational and management issues. Although we are not an expert organisation on medical and social rehabilitation, we develop software solutions for the whole range of MA tasks. In the context of victim assistance, an appropriate information management is crucial for:

- A clearer understanding of national and global needs and impact of VA
- Monitoring and tracking of the access of victims to their rights (rights based approach)
- Decision-support for the development of comprehensive VA strategies and the structuring of the VA processes.

Together with JMU/CISR, VVAF and CMC, we are organizing a side-event on Thursday (tomorrow), lunch time on how information management systems can support victim assistance. The GICHD will provide an update on the development of new victim-centric information management capabilities in IMSMA. A development which will facilitate the monitoring and management of the VA process. In particular, it will support the registration of the victims' needs assessment, statement of claims and

rights, compensation and services provided. The possibility of extracting relevant VA statistics in IMSMA will facilitate the accountability of the assistance process, the quantification of its impact on victims' lives and the optimization of resources. We see VA as being part of the broader need for national disability assistance programmes in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you Mr Chair.