



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Intersessional Meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Victims Assistance

Statement held by

Switzerland

Geneva, 28 June 2011

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Madame Chairman,

Switzerland would like to thank Austria for the thorough preparation of this session and supports the general approach undertaken.

In close cooperation with the main stakeholders in the field of Victim Assistance, such as the national governments, NGOs, UN agencies, ICRC, and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining GICHD with its mine action expertise, Switzerland has a longstanding tradition of supporting Victim Assistance programs in various countries and regions; Switzerland hereby confirms its ongoing commitment in this regard.

Since the beginning of the Oslo process, Switzerland has stressed the non-discrimination principle between cluster munition victims and other persons with disabilities as well as the importance of gender issues. We further encourage an integral approach, effectively alleviating the victims' suffering by improving access to care, the quality of care, as well as supporting the socio-economic reintegration of survivors and promoting the observance of their rights. Victim Assistance efforts should thereby fit into broader national policies for public health, social services and human rights for the entire population.

Switzerland is about to revise its current anti-mine strategy for a new term lasting until 2015. The Swiss Confederation's anti-mine strategy – which refers to all kind of ERW – will reiterate our commitment and set out our programme at the international level in collaboration with the international community. Priorities are the strengthening of national capacity building and implementation strategies, action plans and trust funds. The active participation of victims in the respective planning and implementation process remains a further priority of Switzerland in this regard.

Thank you, Madame Chairman.