

5 February 2015
CCM PrepCom
Talking points for Victim Assistance Coordinators

Thank you Madam President,

- As Coordinator, with Australia/Mexico, on Victim Assistance, we wanted to ensure that the review recognised the important progress to date of the 12 States parties with obligations under Article 5 and responsibilities for the wellbeing of cluster munitions victims, given the assistance to survivors, and to their families and communities, is acknowledged as a key component of the remedy to the harm caused by cluster munitions, and is also a legal duty.
- On one hand, we focused on identifying the challenges experienced in the provision of victim assistance, for which further attention and support are needed to overcome.
- On the other hand, we acknowledged the progress made, in order to present a full picture of the aspects which are already well addressed, as well as other aspects that are yet to be fulfilled. Also, such progress helped to identify some good practices that could be share among Parties facing similar challenges.
- As a result of the identification of both progress and challenges, we formulated some recommendations which might guide further work.
- There are continued challenges, not least to ensure the sustainability of services and programmes for victims, and that their lifelong needs will be met.
- A key message going forward would be to ensure that further implementation demonstrates measurable improvements in the accessibility of services in many of the States parties with cluster munitions victims, and that the rights of all victims are fulfilled.
- We took an inclusive approach in preparing the draft review on victim assistance implementation.
- With the support of the interim ISU, for which we are grateful, we reached out to the 12 States parties with cluster munitions victims for input and comments on the draft review.
- We also reached out to former CCM Coordinators on victim assistance, as well as other relevant international and non-government organisations with expertise in the victim assistance field.
- We are grateful for the input and feedback we received during these consultations.
- Our recommendations, as outlined in the Review paper, are intended to provide practical, time bound and purposeful guidance on the development of actions on implementation of the Convention's victim assistance obligations for the draft Dubrovnik Action Plan.
- We remain open to input and suggestions from interested States parties and other stakeholders in the development of these actions.