

Cluster Munitions Convention
13th Meeting of States Parties
16.-19.09.2025

Item 10 (e) – Victim Assistance
Statement by Austria

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Mr. President,

Cluster munitions and their remnants continue to disproportionately impact civilians. According to the Cluster Munition Monitor, all reported victims in 2024 were civilians and almost half of them children. Every incident stands for a human life. Every incident stands for a family, a community, being affected in the long-term. We need to do more to ensure that victim assistance can reach all of them.

Victim assistance has always been a truly cooperative endeavor. Its impact goes well beyond the individual and is beneficial for the broader affected community. Empowering survivors and their communities is therefore crucial and their perspectives need to be heard and included on all issues relevant to the Convention. Austria continues to support the participation of survivors and their representative organisations in our meetings.

For Austria, a human-centred approach with the full, equal, effective and non-discriminatory participation of survivors in society remains at the heart of our Convention. We commend affected States and all stakeholders that have undertaken or supported measures for victim assistance. In the Lausanne Action Plan we aim to ensure that victim assistance corresponds to the specific needs of victims. Incorporating gender and diversity considerations is essential to ensure that all those in need can benefit from victim assistance in accordance with their rights.

Mr. President,

To effectively harness our expertise, resources and ensure a wider impact, we need to build stronger links between existing disarmament, humanitarian, human rights and development instruments, including the CCM, Protocol V of the CCW, APMBC and the CRPD. In addition, the Political Declaration on EWIPA incorporates provisions on victim assistance and offers further potential for collaboration on a policy and practical level.

Austria currently serves as a Member of the Committee on Victim Assistance of the APMBC and as Victim Assistance Coordinator of the Protocol V of the CCW. In our roles in these Conventions we will continue to engage with the Victim Assistance Coordinator of the CCM to share experience and knowledge to strengthen our work across the different instruments. Such exchanges have demonstrated the general challenge of access to emergency care and continued medical care and

rehabilitation services, which remains limited for survivors and other persons in need living in rural or conflict-affected areas. Addressing such challenges together will ultimately benefit affected communities and ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you