



**Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on  
their Destruction**

**Oslo, Norway**

**November 2019**

**Statement by Ireland on Victim Assistance**

President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for their work ahead of this Review Conference and for their presentation. I also wish to thank those states that provided updates about their victim assistance programmes and policies.

While we welcome the progress in the implementation of the actions on victim assistance since the Third Review Conference, we are concerned about the rise in the number of new victims in recent years. This trend not only underscores the importance of urgently stepping up our efforts to realise our shared goal of a world free of anti-personnel mines, but also of need to place victim assistance at the heart of mine action policies.

President,

The Ottawa Convention was the first multilateral arms control treaty to address the humanitarian needs of victims of a particular weapon system. For Ireland, Victim Assistance is a core element of our mine action and international development aid policies. In order for victim assistance efforts to be sustainable in the long run, they need to be integrated into broader disability policies. Ireland fully supports the importance that survivors participate in decision-and policy-making on issues affecting them and other spheres of society, on an equal basis and in a sustainable way.

President,

The devastating impacts of anti-personnel mines not only affect those killed or injured by them, but also have a lasting impact on their families, communities and the populations still living in fear of unexploded landmines. As long as anti-personnel mines are produced, stockpiled and used, people will continue to be made victims and survivors of these mines.

We acknowledge the work done thus far in this area by states and by the Committee on Victim Assistance and the Implementation Support Unit. We encourage States with victims of anti-personnel mines to provide high quality information concerning their implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.

Ireland fully supports efforts outlined in the Oslo Action Plan to give more definition and specificity to Victim Assistance and welcome the inclusion of measurable indicators. We believe the Oslo Action Plan provides a comprehensive basis to make progress in the coming period and we view the increased attention to gender as particularly important.

President,

Ireland considers assistance to and empowerment of victims as a key step in our efforts to build a peaceful and sustainable future for all. Ireland also recognises the complementarity which exists between this Convention and other human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Many survivors of anti-personnel landmines have disabilities, whether physical and psychological, and Ireland acknowledges the importance of the CRPD in protecting their rights. We support efforts to further discuss how best to utilise these instruments for the benefit of landmine survivors and their communities.

Finally, Ireland wishes to recognise organisations such as the ICRC for their unwavering commitment to the Convention. We would also like to sincerely thank those survivors of anti-personnel mines who have added their voices and experiences to the struggle to ensure this Convention's full and effective implementation.

Thank you.