

SURVIVORS' CALL TO ACTION

The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World

29 November to 4 December 2009 | Colombia

Despite some progress, promoting victim assistance has been the most challenging part of the Mine Ban Treaty's implementation. Thousands of landmine survivors still face physical, psychological, economic, social and legal barriers that are preventing their inclusion in society. The Cartagena Summit provides an opportunity to promote the rights of survivors to ensure their needs are addressed so that they may fully participate proactively in society in the next five years.

WE THE SURVIVORS' FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

1. Expect that the Cartagena Summit will bring changes in the lives of landmine victims by adopting a strong Cartagena Action Plan that will reenergize States Parties to step up to their responsibility to provide adequate assistance.
2. Believe that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions align with Mine Ban Treaty will promote the rights and address the needs of survivors and persons with disabilities, once properly implemented
3. Are convinced that victim assistance is more effective when it is part of broader development programs and comprehensive national policies and action plans.
4. Value the commitments announced by the participants to the Summit and expect those commitments to translate into action in the next five years.
5. Express our concern that survivors, especially those living in remote areas, remain vulnerable to extreme poverty and lack access to the services they need
6. Ask that States Parties reconsider the importance of measures to ensure economic inclusion since this vital component of Victim Assistance has often been ignored in the past
7. Draw attention to the lack of accessibility, and gaps in the availability of psychosocial supports services in most of the affected States—which severely hamper the inclusion and empowerment of survivors.

The Cartagena Action Plan is the key document in the next five years. States Parties, in particular affected States, must make sure that the actions are fully implemented on the ground in order to guarantee a real and lasting impact on the lives of landmine victims and persons with disabilities.

WE CALL ON STATES, AND IN PARTICULAR ON AFFECTED STATES, TO FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:

1. Take immediate actions to ensure all landmine survivors in your country have full access to the services they need.
2. Take immediate measures to prohibit discrimination against landmine survivors in all spheres of life.
3. Guarantee meaningful participation of landmine survivors in all areas of victim assistance at all levels
4. Make sure the economic needs and rights of landmine survivors are part of priorities of development programs. In particular, ensure employment and self-employment opportunities are increased by a fixed annual percentage as determined by national victim assistance stakeholders, and ensure income generation programs are expanded to all landmine survivors and persons with disabilities as needed.

5. Improve the quality of physical rehabilitation services including prostheses, orthotics and mobility devices, and enhance these services as close as possible to affected communities, with a particular focus on reaching remote areas.
6. Remove physical, social and attitudinal barriers that prevent landmine survivors and persons with disabilities from being included in society. This means that public buildings, roads, social spaces, services, and information be made accessible, in other words, available, affordable and adequate.
7. Promote inclusive education so that all landmine survivors get proper education and job training. This means that schools and trainings centers must be physically and geographically accessible. It also requires that States allocate adequate resources for educating teachers and trainers on disability rights and inclusive teaching skills.
8. The affected States should make sure that multi-years psychosocial and peer support services are available and accessible to all survivors as needed and include peer support in existing health and rehabilitation services available to landmine survivors.
9. Adapt national laws and policies, if not done yet, in accordance with the Mine Ban Treaty obligations and in line with the right-based standard articulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and ensure they are effectively enforced within a reasonable timeframe.
10. Review, update and implement National Victim Assistance or Disability Action Plans in close consultation with landmine survivors and disability stakeholders, in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan.
11. Affected States and donors have to prioritize capacity building of national institutions, including Persons with Disabilities' Organizations, through trainings, exchange programs and the provision of adequate technical and financial resources to enhance ownership and sustain services.
12. Appoint a focal point to coordinate Victim Assistance programs in the country.
13. Ensure all Victim Assistance programs are monitored regularly, and report to States Parties and all national stakeholders on both progress made and challenges faced.
14. Affected States must consider contributing adequate long-term national funds to victim assistance. For example: by allocating a percentage of national annual income to victim assistance. Donor countries must increase multi-year sustainable funding for victim assistance activities.
15. Harmonize your work when implementing the MBT, CCM and CRPD to protect and promote the rights of Landmine Survivors and Persons with Disabilities, and fill in the gaps and avoid duplications.
16. States not already party must ratify MBT, CRPD and CCM without further delay.

WE, SURVIVORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, COMMIT TO:

1. Share our first-hand knowledge in order to improve victim assistance and promote the rights of Survivors and persons with disabilities.
2. Participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the MBT and other relevant conventions.
3. Work through our organizations to contribute to the delivery of services and the provision of peer support to landmine survivors, their families and persons with disabilities.
4. Continue in our efforts to convince those States that have not joined the MBT, CCM and CPRD to join as soon as possible.