

BELGIUM

Victim Assistance

APMBC - 19th MSP - November 2021

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity:

We are worried about the continuing increasing number of mine victims. The total last year was more than double the number of 2013.

We wish to thank the committee for the presentation and for the hard work over the past year. We welcome the focus of the work of the committee on action 35 of the Oslo Action Plan. The **systematic collection and centralization of data**, disaggregated by gender, age and disability is crucial in improving our response and addressing the specific needs of all mine victims in an inclusive approach, ensuring the full, equal, and effective participation of mine victims and their representatives in society.

Both short and long-term multifaceted victim assistance will remain crucial and need to be further elaborated and refined. Against this background, we wish to welcome the recently adopted **new international mine action standard** on victim assistance (IMAS 13.10), which aims to provide useful guidance to mine action actors on this important topic.

We appreciate the efforts of the committee to strengthen the integration of victim assistance efforts and commitments into **broader frameworks**. We should continue looking for synergies with the CRPD and with other relevant conventions in the mine action area. We are convinced of the great added value of stressing these interlinkages and the mutual sharing of best practices.

Over the past years, Belgium has provided **funding for victim assistance**, inter alia through the ICRC's Special Appeal: disability and mine action (1 mln EUR in 2020; 1 mln EUR in 2019; 500,000 EUR in 2018...), contributing to the empowerment of mine victims and survivors.