IV. Victim assistance

1. The Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance (Austria and Colombia) indicated that one of their main aims in 2013 was to further identify what progress has been made in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan and what additional progress is expected prior to the Convention’s Third Review Conference. In this context, they invited States Parties responsible for significant numbers of mine victims to provide more specific and updated information further that furnished by these States Parties in 2012 on their efforts to fulfil Cartagena Action Plan commitments on victim assistance.

2. The Co-Chairs recalled that Afghanistan provided information in 2012 which highlighted challenges faced in developing and monitoring the implementation of laws, plans, policies and programmes in Afghanistan as a result of the lack of a comprehensive disability data system. The Co-Chairs invited Afghanistan to inform the States Parties of Afghanistan’s plans to develop a comprehensive mechanism for data collection and management as concerns disability. No update was provided on this matter. The Co-Chairs further recalled that Afghanistan, in 2012 noted that, by the time of the Third Review Conference, it plans to renew its national plan of action on disability. The Co-Chairs invited Afghanistan to inform the States Parties of the status of Afghanistan’s efforts to review the successes and shortcomings of the previous plan and to commence a new national planning process. Afghanistan reported that it, along with disability stakeholders, drafted the

* Document submitted after the established deadline to allow the States parties to provide comprehensive information on their activities.
Afghanistan National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, shared it with stakeholders for consultation, and is committed to follow up with a revision.

3. The Co-Chairs also recalled that Afghanistan plans, by the time of the Third Review Conference, to have revised its national disability legislation through a consultative process to ensure coherence with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. The Co-Chairs invited Afghanistan to inform the States Parties the status of Afghanistan’s efforts to revise relevant legislation. Afghanistan reported that it had amended some articles of the Law on the Rights and Benefits of Disabled Persons with these published in Afghanistan’s Official Gazette on 18 March 2013 and that Afghanistan’s Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled will continue to pursue complete amendments to the disability law to bring it in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4. In addition, Afghanistan shared information with the States Parties on significant progress having been made in its health sector since 2001, noting that 17 physical rehabilitation centres are functional in the country. Afghanistan also reported that its Ministry of Public Health launched a four-year disability and physical rehabilitation strategy on 6 May 2013 and that the Ministry has also developed a national mental health strategy.

5. The Co-Chairs recalled that Albania provided information in 2012 which highlighted that, in preparing to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities, Albania was considering ways to strengthen and improve its inter-ministerial/inter-sectorial coordination for disability in line with article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. The Co-Chairs invited Albania to inform the States Parties the details regarding how it intends to do so and what progress has already been made. Albania reported that it has now acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, Albania is currently implementing a project “Promoting Disability Rights in Albania, Support Programme on the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities”. This project includes a full review of the disability-related legal and policy frameworks with the aim to assess their compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities.

6. The Co-Chairs recalled that Albania provided information in 2012 which highlighted the challenges faced in implementing its national plan of action due to limited financial resources. The Co-Chairs invited Albania to inform the States Parties of the Albanian government’s current commitment to fund implementation and how is Albania supplementing its own effort by attracting additional outside resources. Albania recalled that its national victim assistance plan is contributing to the emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, and socioeconomic reintegration, data collection, implementation of relevant laws and policies for all mine/unexploded ordnance victims throughout Albania.

7. The Co-Chairs recalled that Albania reported in 2012 that it plans to develop new national legislation on disability through a consultative process involving relevant ministries, survivors, other persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. The Co-Chairs invited Albania to inform the States Partied the status of Albania’s efforts to develop national disability legislation, and how are survivors, other persons with disabilities and their representative organisations consulted. Albania reported that an inter-ministerial working group has been created to develop the new national legislation and that this group has prepared, through a consultative process, a draft framework law on the rights of persons with disabilities. In line with article 33 of Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities, the draft law defines the inter-ministerial coordination group allowing the National Council for Disability to assign representatives from nine related ministries and
five persons with disabilities or their representative organizations. Albania noted that the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is the leading ministry on disability issues.

8. In addition, Albania shared the following information with the States Parties:
   
   (a) Albania reported that it has collected data and detailed statistics, disaggregated by age and gender, on the casualties from mines, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance. These data are collected at national scale and shared regularly with other stakeholders.

   (b) Albania reported that it continues to work in cooperation with partners in strengthening medical care and physical rehabilitation capacities with these being equally available to men, women, boys and girls.

   (c) Albania also reported that a non-governmental organisation is carrying out an assessment of the socioeconomic and medical needs of the survivors from abandoned explosive ordnance in six regions of Albania, with the findings from this project to be shared at a national workshop in November 2013.

   (d) Albania reported that the prosthetic workshop at the Kukes Regional Hospital will be upgraded with equipment, raw materials and components for the repairs and the production of prostheses and orthoses and that the hospital’s rehabilitation unit will continue to assist not only mine and UXO survivors but also others in need.

9. The Co-Chairs recalled that Angola provided information in 2012, which highlighted the efforts of Angola’s national demining commission (CNIDAH) to collect data on landmine victims. The Co-Chairs invited Angola to inform the States Parties of the system that is being used to collect these data, how this effort relates to broader national data collection and information management concerning healthcare and disability, the status of national efforts to understand the prevalence of disability more generally across Angola, and how the CNIDAH’s project to collect data on landmine/other explosive remnants of war (ERW) victims feeds into these broader efforts. While Angola did not report on how the CNIDAH’s data collection and information efforts relate to broader national data collection and information management concerning healthcare and disability, Angola did report on its mine victim registration project in six provinces. Angola noted that, in the province of Huambo, all persons with disabilities are registered and that as of 29 May 2013 3,494 persons with disabilities, including 1,361 mine victims had been registered.

10. The Co-Chairs recalled that Angola provided information in 2012 which highlighted the efforts of CNIDAH to enhance social inclusion and psychological well-being for landmine survivors through inclusive sports projects. The Co-Chairs invited Angola to inform the States Parties specifically Angola’s hope to achieve through these efforts in time for the Third Review Conference and how Angola is ensuring that these efforts are consistent with the States Parties’ understandings regarding non-discrimination between those injured by mines or other ERW and those persons disabled by other causes. While Angola did not report on how CNIDAH’s efforts in these areas are consistent with States Parties’ understandings regarding non-discrimination, Angola did report on the outputs of various economic and social inclusion, psychological support and physical rehabilitation initiatives, including that CNIDAH has reinforced its staff by recruiting an expert in the area of psychosocial reintegration.

11. The Co-Chairs recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information in 2012 that highlighted national efforts to collect and manage data on landmine and other ERW victims. The Co-Chairs invited Bosnia and Herzegovina to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to collect data on landmine and other ERW victims, and the plan to integrate these data into broader national information management systems for healthcare.
and disabilities. The Co-Chairs also recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information in 2012 that highlighted the adoption of a national disability policy in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a national “Strategy and Action Plan for Equality of Possibilities for Disabled Persons in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010-2014”. The Co-Chairs invited Bosnia and Herzegovina to inform the States Parties what activities have been developed to support implementation of this national strategy.

12. The Co-Chairs invited Burundi to inform the States Parties of examples of how it has acted to implement Cartagena Action Plan victim assistance commitments, progress that has been made, and challenges it has encountered in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

13. The Co-Chairs recalled that Cambodia provided information in 2012 which highlighted challenges faced in data collection due to limited resources and capacity. The Co-Chairs invited Cambodia to inform the States Parties of the status of Cambodia’s efforts to enhance data collection through measures such as including a category for landmine survivor on the next general population census, acquiring relevant information from non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, and enhancing the acquisition of date on the provision physical rehabilitation services, and what in particular in these areas does Cambodia anticipate achieving by the time of the Third Review Conference. Cambodia reported that its 2008 census recorded 192,538 persons with disabilities (with Cambodia providing information disaggregated by age and sex) and that Cambodia anticipates that the next general population census scheduled to be conducted in 2018 would provide more complete data.

14. The Co-Chairs recalled that Cambodia provided information in 2012 which highlighted on-going efforts to review implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/ERW survivors (2009-2011) and to develop a new National Disability Strategic Plan 2014-2018. The Co-Chairs invited Cambodia to inform the States Parties the status of Cambodia’s efforts to review the effectiveness of the old plan and to develop the new plan, and what Cambodia learned from the implementation of its 2009-2011 plan and how will a new plan be monitored and evaluated. Cambodia reported that a sub-decree was issued on 2 May 2013 assigning responsibilities to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and Disability Action Council to develop the National Disability Strategic Plan.

15. In addition, Cambodia shared information with the States Parties on its physical rehabilitation, community-based rehabilitation, vocational training and public sector affirmative action efforts. Cambodia also highlighted the decision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to designate a new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the ESCAP’s adoption of the Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

16. The Co-Chairs invited Chad to inform the States Parties of examples of how it has acted to implement Cartagena Action Plan victim assistance commitments, progress that has been made, and challenges it has encountered in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

17. The Co-Chairs recalled that Colombia provided information in 2012 which highlighted on-going efforts to create a single national victim database in which all information on landmine and other ERW survivors will be collected - disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity and status (civil or military) – and stored for access by public entities, local authorities, international organizations and civil society organizations. The Co-Chairs invited Colombia to inform the States Parties how this effort relates to broader national data collection and information management as concern healthcare and disability, and how Colombia is ensuring that this effort is consistent with the States Parties understandings.
regarding non-discrimination. Colombia did not provide information regarding how its single national victim database links to the broader national data collection and information management as concerns healthcare and disability.

18. The Co-Chairs recalled that Colombia provided information in 2012 that highlighted its effort to raise awareness of the rights, needs, and capacities of persons with disabilities including landmine and other ERW survivors. The Co-Chairs invited Colombia to inform the States Parties the degree these efforts had an impact and how Colombia measures the results of these efforts. While Colombia did not share information regarding its awareness raising activities, it did report that there are 13 national associations of victims currently functioning across the country. Colombia indicated its plans to develop activities to strengthen the participation of these associations.

19. The Co-Chairs recalled that Colombia provided information in 2012 which highlighted national efforts to convert its plan for Attention and Reparation for Victims into various local and municipal action plans. The Co-Chairs invited Colombia to inform the States Parties the status with respect to the development of these plans, and if this assisted Colombia in overcoming its challenges regarding coordination across the 27 national entities responsible for implementation of the national plan. Colombia did not provide further information on its efforts to translate the national plan into local and municipal action plans.

20. In addition, Colombia reported that as of 31 April 2013, the total number of landmine survivors in Colombia is 10,309. Colombia has identified that 1,011 of that total were children at the time of the accident and consequently has placed a special emphasis on child victims. A National Intersectoral Board has been established to further protect child victims, to promote their participation, and to ensure their needs and expectations are taken into consideration in the formulation of policies, plans, programmes and projects.

21. The Co-Chairs recalled that Croatia provided information in 2012 which highlighted challenges in data collection due to lack of a centralised mechanism to collect disability data. The Co-Chairs invited Croatia to inform the States Parties the progress that has been made in establishing a centralised data collection system and how these efforts relate to broader national efforts to collect disability data.

22. The Co-Chairs recalled that the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided information in 2012 which highlighted efforts to enhance data collection systems for victim assistance. The Co-Chairs invited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to inform the States Parties the system that is currently in place for collecting data on landmine and other ERW victims and how this effort relates to broader national efforts to collect data regarding disability. The Co-Chairs also recalled that the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided information in 2012 which highlighted challenges due to weak coordination mechanisms for disability issues at both national and local levels. The Co-Chairs invited The Democratic Republic of the Congo to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to strengthen coordination mechanisms for disability at different levels across the country.

23. The Co-Chairs recalled that the Cartagena Action Plan highlights the importance of establishing a functional mechanism to enhance cooperation between relevant government ministries, organisation of persons with disabilities, international agencies and non-governmental organisations in order to ensure coordination in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. The Co-Chairs invited El Salvador to inform the States Parties of its approach to coordinating the efforts of various actors working on disability and victim assistance matters, the national entity that has been designated lead focal point for disability matters, and its focal point for victim assistance.

24. The Co-Chairs invited Eritrea to inform the States Parties of examples of how it has acted to implement Cartagena Action Plan’s victim assistance commitments, and the
progress that has been made. Eritrea reported that progress has been made with respect to the planning, capacity building, and service provision. The National Policy on Disability for 2012 to 2016 has been developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare in consultation with other relevant actors. The Ministry of Health has been undertaking capacity building of health personnel and has developed training guidelines on disabilities. In addition, 48 specialised high technology equipment and accessories have been procured for to enhance the capacity of the National Physiotherapy Centre. Eritrea further reported that its community based rehabilitation programme has expanded to almost all of the 57 sub-zobas in the country with the support of approximately 3,000 community volunteers. The three orthopaedic workshops in Eritrea have been producing prostheses, wheel chairs, sticks and crutches, and items have been distributed to 32,000 persons at no cost to the individuals concerned. As well, Eritrea reported on a revolving loan scheme which was introduced as a pilot and has now been expanded to all sub-zobas. In the past five years, over 5,000 families, including families of landmine victims, have benefitted from this fund.

25. The Co-Chairs invited Eritrea to inform the States Parties challenges that it has encountered in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan. Eritrea reported that it continues to face challenges in meeting its commitments due to a shortage of skilled health personnel, particularly in remote areas. Eritrea highlighted that emergency response and psycho-social support capacities need to be strengthened nationwide and expanded to remote and rural areas which are hard to access. Eritrea noted that inter-sectoral coordination needs to be further strengthened and partnerships need to be built in order for sustainable progress to be made.

26. The Co-Chairs invited Eritrea to inform the States Parties of its objectives in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan. While Eritrea did not report on the specific activities it intends to undertake in the lead up to the Third Review Conference, it did reiterate the high political commitment of the Government of Eritrea to disability and the new National Policy of Disabilities that aims to ensure the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities included landmine and other ERW survivors to rehabilitation, health, education, employment, culture and family integration.

27. The Co-Chairs recalled that Ethiopia provided information in 2012 which highlighted challenges with sharing information regarding disability related activities and achievements across relevant various ministries and bodies. The Co-Chairs invited Ethiopia to inform the States Parties how Ethiopia intends to address these challenges and enhance or facilitate the flow of information and specifically what Ethiopia hopes to achieve by the time of the Third Review Conference. Ethiopia recognised that successful implementation of the new national action plan will require enhanced collaboration between relevant stakeholders and, to this end, has established the National Implementation Monitoring Coordinating Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and comprised of other key ministries, disabled persons’ organisations, and other relevant organisations. Ethiopia reported that it is now working to establish Regional Implementation Monitoring Coordinating Committees with five established to date. By the time of the Third Review Conference, Ethiopia plans to have established a sixth regional committee and to ensure that all regional committees have incorporated a new national plan into their annual work plans and are reporting regularly to the national committee.

28. The Co-Chairs recalled that Ethiopia provided information in 2012 which noted the lack of a comprehensive mechanism for the systematic collection of data regarding disabilities, including landmine and other ERW survivors. The Co-Chairs invited Ethiopia to inform the States Parties the progress that has been made with respect to enhancing methods of data collection and data management and to bring systems in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities requirements. Ethiopia reported that the
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been collaborating with the Census Committee to see that the census scheduled for 2017 will gather data on disabilities, including landmine survivors.

29. The Co-Chairs recalled that Ethiopia provided information in 2012 which highlighted a Memorandum of Understanding that had been signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development to promote physical accessibility in public buildings, especially focusing on the Ethiopian building code. The Co-Chairs invited Ethiopia to inform the States Parties of some of the concrete outcomes that have resulted from this and how implementation is monitored and evaluated. While Ethiopia did not report on progress made as concerns physical accessibility, it did report on progress in implementing the National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy noting that there are 15 prosthetics-orthotics centres in the country providing physical rehabilitation and orthopaedic devices, with some government run and others operated by non-governmental organizations. Outreach programmes have been established and are operating in 25 locations in eight regions of the county to service those that cannot access the centres. In addition, Ethiopia reported that in April 2013, 24 physiotherapists and orthopaedic technicians from the regions completed training and that in September 2013 the next cohort will commence training to build capacity in the country.

30. The Co-Chairs recalled that Ethiopia provided information in 2012 which highlighted that it is preparing to submit its initial report on measures taken to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Co-Chairs invited Ethiopia to inform the States Parties the progress that has been made in preparing the initial report, and the degree this report will effectively serve as a means for Ethiopia to highlight how it is fulfilling Cartagena Action Plan commitments in the context of broader approaches to disability. Ethiopia reported that, in accordance with Article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities, it has submitted its comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. The report was prepared through a consultative process in which Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs collaborated with Disabled People’s Organization and other relevant stakeholders.

31. In addition, Ethiopia shared the following information with the States Parties: The National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2012, is now in the process of being translated into the national language, Ahmaric, and training and awareness-raising on the plan will take place before the end of the year. Ethiopia further reported that the issue of disabilities has been incorporated as a component in the Ethiopia Growth and Transformation Plan 2010-2015.

32. The Co-Chairs recalled that Guinea-Bissau provided information in 2012 which highlighted its objective to establish a national coordination mechanism on victim assistance. The Co-Chairs invited Guinea-Bissau to inform the States Parties if a national coordination mechanism consisting of relevant government ministries, organisations of persons with disabilities, international agencies, and non-governmental organisations as well as other relevant actors now have been established. The Co-Chairs also recalled that the information provided in 2012 highlighted the priority that Guinea-Bissau places on enhancing methods of collecting, managing, and disseminating data on landmine and other ERW casualties. The Co-Chairs invited Guinea-Bissau to inform the States Parties on the progress that has been made in enhancing national systems to collect, manage, and disseminate data on landmine and other explosive remnants of war casualties, how this effort relates to broader national data collection and information management as concern healthcare and disability, and how Guinea-Bissau is ensuring that this effort is consistent with the States Parties’ understandings regarding non-discrimination between those injured by mines or other explosive remnants of war and those persons disabled by other causes.
33. The Co-Chairs recalled that Iraq provided information in 2012 that highlighted inter-ministerial efforts to work towards the development of a national disability action plan inclusive of landmine and other ERW survivors. The Co-Chairs invited Iraq to inform the States Parties the status of national efforts to develop a national plan of action, and how landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities are involved in the process of developing a plan and how their involvement is foreseen in its implementation. Iraq did not provide any information on the status of national efforts to develop its national plan of action.

34. The Co-Chairs recalled that Iraq indicated that its Parliament has approved ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. The Co-Chairs invited Iraq to inform the States Parties if Iraq now deposited its instrument of ratification, and if not, the date that Iraq will complete this process. Iraq reported that on 24 March 2013 it deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities.

35. The Co-Chairs recalled that Iraq provided information in 2012 which highlighted efforts of the Ministry of Health, with the support from the World Health Organization, to develop a national injury surveillance system. The Co-Chairs invited Iraq to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to develop the system and to make it operational countrywide, and how the victim data collection efforts of the Ministry of Environment and the Directorate of Mine Action efforts are feeding into this broader national effort. Iraq reported that it had launched a survey on persons with disabilities including landmine victims. The survey seeks to gather age and sex disaggregated data and evaluate needs in order to inform the development of plans and programmes that could eventually be conducted in collaboration with relevant ministries and social organisations. Data from the survey conducted in Batran Village, a heavily mine affected village in Albasra province in the South of Iraq, indicated that there are 123 survivors in the village expressing needs that include prosthetic devices, physical rehabilitation, training and income generating opportunities. Each survivor identified during the survey was granted financial assistance and the village has been prioritized for development and reconstruction activities in collaboration with the local government.

36. In addition, Iraq shared further information regarding its efforts to construct centres for the production of prosthetic limbs and to provide physical rehabilitation. Iraq noted some of the challenges it is facing which include: lack of data, leading to a short-fall in capacity of the centres that are being constructed; obtaining quality materials to provide prosthetic devices which suit the needs and living situations of the survivors; lack of technical capacity to produce and fit prosthetic devices and deliver training and physical rehabilitation.

37. The Co-Chairs recalled that Jordan provided information in 2012 which highlighted efforts of the Ministry of Health, with the support from the World Health Organization, to develop a national injury surveillance system. The Co-Chairs invited Iraq to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to develop the system and to make it operational countrywide, and how the victim data collection efforts of the Ministry of Environment and the Directorate of Mine Action efforts are feeding into this broader national effort. Iraq reported that it had launched a survey on persons with disabilities including landmine victims. The survey seeks to gather age and sex disaggregated data and evaluate needs in order to inform the development of plans and programmes that could eventually be conducted in collaboration with relevant ministries and social organisations. Data from the survey conducted in Batran Village, a heavily mine affected village in Albasra province in the South of Iraq, indicated that there are 123 survivors in the village expressing needs that include prosthetic devices, physical rehabilitation, training and income generating opportunities. Each survivor identified during the survey was granted financial assistance and the village has been prioritized for development and reconstruction activities in collaboration with the local government.

38. In addition, Jordan shared information about increased collaboration with the Jordan Agricultural Credit Corporation which has provided micro-credit to survivors, with 20 survivors in 2012 able to establish an income generating project. It is foreseen that another
40 survivors will benefit from similar loans in 2013. Jordan also reported that, in March 2013, in collaboration with the Hashemite Committee for Disabled Soldiers, 40 survivors were taken to Mecca, Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah as part of an on-going project that seeks to boost the morale of survivors. Similar activities are planned for the near future.

39. The Co-Chairs recalled that Mozambique provided information in 2012 which highlighted that it is preparing to submit its initial report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Co-Chairs invited Mozambique to inform the States Parties of the progress made in preparing the initial report, and the degree that this report will effectively serve as a means for Mozambique to highlight how it is fulfilling Cartagena Action Plan commitments in the context of broader approaches to disability. Mozambique reported that it is still in the process of preparing its initial report and noted that the initial CRPD report will contain information on assistance provided to landmine victims.

40. The Co-Chairs recalled that Mozambique provided information in 2012 highlighting the adoption of its National Action Plan on Disabilities adopted for the period 2012 to 2019. The Co-Chairs invited Mozambique to inform the States Parties the extent a budget has been developed for implementation of the plan, and the Mozambican government’s current commitment to fund implementation of the plan and how Mozambique is supplementing its own effort by attracting additional outside resources. Mozambique recalled that a number of policies, strategies and guidance tools have been adopted and are currently in the process of implementation including its National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, which defines and directs the disability activities in the country, and a regulation establishing accessibility standards for the construction and use of buildings and public spaces.

41. While Mozambique did not report on its efforts to fund its national action plan, it did report on results achieved in implementation of the plan including that, in 2012, 25,524 persons with disabilities benefited from physical rehabilitation services in ten orthopaedic centres operating in the country, of whom 18,718 were assisted for the first time. In total, 4,021 orthopaedic devices were provided through these services. In addition, in the area of social assistance, there are 18,817 persons with disabilities receiving monthly cash transfers. Mozambique further reported that initiatives have been developed to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in 6,059 income generation projects, including through the employment of 2,849 people with disabilities in public institutions. In the area of education, 3,228 children with special educational needs were integrated into regular schools and 444 in special schools and Mozambique’s Institute for the Blind. This year three education resource centres became functional with the capacity to assist about 254 children and youth with special needs regions in South, Central and North of Mozambique.

42. The Co-Chairs invited Mozambique to inform the States Parties the system Mozambique has in place to monitor implementation of its National Action Plan on Disabilities and to evaluate its effectiveness on an on-going basis. Mozambique reported that the plan is implemented through the annual planning of relevant ministries and sectors of the State that share responsibility for meeting the rights of persons with disabilities. Mozambique reported that coordination between these actors is essential and that monitoring of the National Action Plan on disabilities is conducted through presentation of the annual report on its implementation to the council of ministers.

43. In addition, Mozambique reported the total number of persons with disabilities in Mozambique is estimated at 475,011 individuals (249,752 male and 225,259 female), corresponding to about two per cent of Mozambique’s population. Mozambique also reported that it has begun the process of developing a law on protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and that non-governmental organisations in collaboration with the government are conducting a needs assessment on the social
conditions of landmine victims in 12 districts of Inhambane and Sofala, two of the most mine-affected provinces in Mozambique.

44. The Co-Chairs invited Nicaragua to inform the States Parties of examples of how it has acted to implement the Cartagena Action Plan victim assistance commitments, progress that has been made, and challenges it has encountered in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

45. The Co-Chairs recalled that Peru provided information in 2012 which highlighted national efforts to develop a broader response to data collection and information management as concerns disability. The Co-Chairs invited Peru to inform the States Parties the status of Peru’s efforts to determine the prevalence of disability across the country and record the cause and the type of disability. Peru indicated that disability statistics have been gathered in Peru through its national census since 1940 and that the 2007 census indicated a 10.89 per cent disability prevalence rate across the country. Peru reported that a specialised national survey on disability has been conducted across 340,000 households and that, of these households, 37,000 include a person with a disability. Peru further indicated that the number of people living with disabilities as a result of landmine incident in Peru is 336 and that there have been no new victims since 28 October 2007.

46. The Co-Chairs recalled that Peru provided information in 2012 which noted that, by the time of the Third Review Conference, Peru intends to have revised its national comprehensive General Law on Persons with Disabilities. The Co-Chairs invited Peru to inform the States Parties the status of the revision process. Peru reported that revised law was enacted on […], that it was drafted in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities and that it was developed through an inclusive and consultative process, as recommended by the concluding observations made by the CRPD Committee in April 2012. Peru provided numerous examples of how the law should benefit persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors.

47. The Co-Chairs recalled that Peru provided information in 2012 which highlighted the need to revise its national action plan for the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities to be inclusive of landmine and other ERW survivors and to bring it in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities obligations. The Co-Chairs invited Peru to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to revise the national action plan. Peru reported that a workshop to commence the process of revising its National Plan for Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2009-2018 was held from 24-25 April, funded by the European Union and supported by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), bringing together relevant government ministries, regional government, civil society, landmine survivors and other relevant stakeholders from across the country to participate in a dialogue regarding the progress made, challenges and lessons learnt from implementing the current plan of action and to identify priorities and objectives for the new plan.

48. In addition, Peru shared information about national funding for disability highlighting a new government initiative adopted in December 2012, which provides for the establishment of four disability programmes with the aim of including disability issues in the perspective of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Furthermore, Peru reported that over the past two years, the Public Budget Law has increased resources allocated specifically for disability (including prevention, treatment and rehabilitation) to US$ 200 million each year distributed amongst relevant ministries and regional and municipal governments. As well, Peru highlighted efforts in the areas of economic participation of persons with disabilities.

49. The Co-Chairs recalled that Senegal provided information in 2012 which highlighted its legislation to enhance the participation of survivors and other persons with disabilities in their communities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of
Disabilities standards. The Co-Chairs invited Senegal to inform the States Parties of how public awareness has been raised regarding the new legislation and to remark on whether there is evidence that this new legislation is already making a difference. The Co-Chairs further invited Senegal to inform the States Parties how implementation of the new legislation is being monitored and evaluated. In addition, the Co-Chairs recalled that Senegal provided information in 2012 noting that a mid-term review of the national action plan for landmine survivors would be conducted in the lead up to the Third Review Conference. The Co-Chairs invited Senegal to inform the States Parties of the status of the mid-term assessment.

50. Senegal reported that it continues to implement its national action plan for landmine survivors and that an evaluation of that plan is currently underway. In terms of coordination, Senegal reported that meetings are regularly held for the regional committees and the department of mine action. Senegal reported that it has recorded 807 mine survivors. In terms of service provision, free access is provided to certain hospitals and free medication is provided for survivors of landmines and other ERW. In addition, Senegal reported that it is currently undertaken a project which supports survivors to continue education through monitoring support, provision of supplies and equipment to educational institutes in mine affected regions and by providing scholarships to support the participation of mine victims. Senegal indicated that its intended next steps are to finalise the review of its national plan of action and to enhance the socio-economic inclusion and support to education.

51. The Co-Chairs recalled that Serbia provided information in 2012 highlighting the challenges of weak inter-ministerial coordination and its plans to overcome this challenge through the establishment of a new coordination body. The Co-Chairs invited Serbia to inform the States Parties the progress that has been made in addressing the challenge of weak inter-ministerial coordination and specifically what will be achieved in this area by the time of the Third Review Conference. The Co-Chairs also recalled that Serbia provided information in 2012 highlighting the challenges faced due to the lack of a centralised comprehensive system for the collection of data on disability. The Co-Chairs invited Serbia to inform the States Parties the progress that has been undertaken to establish a centralised comprehensive data collection and information management system on disability. In addition, the Co-Chairs recalled that Serbia provided information in 2012 noting that, by the time of the Third Review Conference, it plans to have enhanced its efforts to raise awareness of the rights, needs, and capacity of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors, through the use of mass media. The Co-Chairs invited Serbia to inform the States Parties the degree that awareness has been raised, and how these efforts are being monitored and evaluated.

52. The Co-Chairs invited Somalia to inform the States Parties of examples of how it has acted to implement the Cartagena Action Plan victim assistance commitments, progress that has been made, and challenges it has encountered in applying the victim assistance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan.

53. The Co-Chairs recalled that the information provided by South Sudan in 2012 highlighted that one of the objectives contained in the national mine action strategy, as concerns victim assistance, is that South Sudan will accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities by the end of 2013. The Co-Chairs invited South Sudan to inform the States Parties the status of South Sudan’s accession process and when South Sudan anticipates completing this process. The Co-Chairs also recalled that the information provided by South Sudan in 2012 highlighted efforts that have been undertaken to understand the prevalence of disability in three provinces. The Co-Chairs invited South Sudan to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to gather further information enabling a greater understanding of disability prevalence in South Sudan nation-wide. In
addition, the Co-Chairs recalled that the information provided by South Sudan in 2012 highlighted that it aims to adopt national legislation to protect the rights of victims and persons with disabilities by 2013. The Co-Chairs invited South Sudan to inform the States Parties the status of efforts to review existing relevant legislation, identify gaps, and develop new legislation in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities standards.

The Co-Chairs recalled that Sudan provided information in 2012 that highlighted challenges faced in ensuring the functioning of the coordination body for victim assistance due to the extent of the challenge, the size of the country, and the current political and security environment, including the diversion of resources planned for disability and development programmes to respond to national emergencies. The Co-Chairs invited Sudan to inform the States Parties how Sudan plans to enhance coordination, and how Sudan will ensure that victim assistance coordination in turn is part of broader health care and disability coordination.

Sudan reported that its National Council for Persons with Disabilities is responsible for all matters relating to disability such as health, education, socio-economic inclusion including planning, policy making, awareness-raising, and coordination. The council operates in the regions through 15 State councils. Sudan further reported that its national mine action centre is an active member of the council and thereby has the opportunity to feed into decision-making processes and to ensure that the rights and needs of mine and other ERW victims are represented in broader disability efforts. Sudan also reported that, in addition to the council, inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms (i.e., working groups) for victim assistance exist in two regions of Sudan, are led by the national mine action centre, and meet monthly with relevant stakeholders.

The Co-Chairs recalled that Sudan provided information in 2012 that highlighted the national health surveillance system established by the Ministry of Health. The Co-Chairs invited Sudan to inform the States Parties if the data that have been acquired by the national demining programme on landmine and other ERW victims and survivors has been integrated into this broader national health surveillance system. Sudan reported that national health surveillance system continues to be under establishment at the level of the Federal Ministry of Health and Ministries of Health at the state level.

The Co-Chairs recalled that Sudan provided information in 2012 that highlighted its effort to raise awareness of the rights, needs and capacities of persons with disabilities including landmine and other ERW survivors. The Co-Chairs invited Sudan to inform the States Parties the degree the awareness has been raised, and how these efforts are being monitored and evaluated. While Sudan did not provide information specific to its awareness raising activities, it did report on efforts to enhance inclusion of mine and other ERW survivors through empowering two victims’ associations, in Blue Nile and in South Kordofan States, to carry out efforts in the areas of social integration, economic empowerment, and psychological rehabilitation.

In addition, Sudan shared the following information with the States Parties:

(a) Sudan reported that, as of April 2013, its national mine action centre had registered 1,350 casualties and that efforts have been made to enhance data collection in the Darfur region of Sudan through the training of 247 additional personnel to conduct data collection. Survivors and persons with disabilities have benefitted from this training, along with health staff from government dispensaries/clinics in remote areas.

(b) Sudan reported that it continues to implement its National Strategic Framework for Victim Assistance and its National Victim Assistance Work Plan, both of which were developed in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan. Sudan noted that both documents are in need of revision given the evolving country context.
59. The Co-Chairs recalled that Tajikistan provided information in 2012 indicating that it is in the process of developing an action plan for landmine and other ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities for the period 2012-2015. The Co-Chairs invited Tajikistan to inform the States Parties the status regarding the development of the national action plan. Tajikistan reported that it has developed such an action plan with specific, measurable and time-bound objectives and indicators and that the plan will soon be approved as part of a mid-term review of the Tajikistan’s 2010-2015 mine action strategy.

60. The Co-Chairs recalled that Tajikistan provided information in 2012 that highlighted Tajikistan’s plans to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities by the time of the Third Review Conference. The Co-Chairs invited Tajikistan to inform the States Parties the status regarding Tajikistan’s efforts to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. Tajikistan reported that on 3 April 2013 the President of the Republic of Tajikistan signed Order #2200 on the “National Plan of the Republic of Tajikistan to implement the recommendations of the United Nations member States to the universal periodic review of the Republic of Tajikistan on Human Rights for 2013-2015”. The plan includes the aim to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities and its optional protocol and is accompanied by a schedule of activities to achieve this end. Tajikistan indicated its intention to be a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities by the time of the Third Review Conference.

61. The Co-Chairs recalled that Tajikistan provided information in 2012 that highlighted the priority afforded to the issue of accessibility in Tajikistan. The Co-Chairs invited Tajikistan to inform the States Parties the efforts that have been undertaken to increase availability of and accessibility to appropriate services for female and male mine victims and who have suffered injuries, including in rural and remote areas. Tajikistan reported that its Agency for the Construction and Architecture made an order to develop a new construction norm on physical accessibility in accordance with international standards on accessibility and the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities. The first draft of the document was prepared by February 2013 and has to pass several steps before entering into force, with one of these being to seek comments from disabled persons’ organizations.

62. In addition, Tajikistan shared other information regarding the fulfilment of its responsibilities to survivors:

(a) Tajikistan recalled that its victim assistance programme has been rebranded as the Disability Support Unit in order to reinforce the notion that efforts to assist the victims should be part of broader disability and development frameworks.

(b) Tajikistan reported that its Coordination Council for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities is now functioning as a consultative body.

(c) Tajikistan reported that in 2012, 12 casualties were registered, including eight survivors and four individuals who were killed. Tajikistan provided age and sex disaggregated data on these victims and also noted that the total number of registered victims in Tajikistan is 846, of which 478 were injured and 368 killed.

(d) Tajikistan reported that, in 2012-2013 the ICRC conducted a needs assessment survey, with 140 survivors and/or their families and that the ICRC plans to
expand support to landmine survivors and other victims through micro-economic initiatives for 200 families in 2013. Tajikistan indicated that 12 contracts with families were signed in the first quarter of 2013.

(e) Tajikistan reported that ten male mine survivors received prostheses from its National Orthopaedic Centre in 2012 and that the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled continued support to the centre and is strengthening services and pursuing sustainability, including by supporting training. Tajikistan also reported that the centre was able to acquire new equipment through support from the United Nations Development Programme.

(f) Tajikistan reported that the United Nations Development Programme supported 80 landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in receiving training to become peer supporters. In addition, Tajikistan reported that the Tajik Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions continued its Survivors’ Network Project and noted that most of those who have graduated from the programme have been successful in finding gainful employment. Tajikistan also noted the efforts of other non-governmental organizations in the areas of community-based rehabilitation and psycho-social support.

(g) Tajikistan reported on its on-going cooperation with Afghanistan, noting that a team from Afghan planned to visit Tajikistan in mid-June 2013 to discuss implementation of the two States’ cooperation plan for mental health.

63. The Co-Chairs recalled that Thailand provided information in 2012 which highlighted efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities in a manner which takes into account its obligations to assist landmine and other ERW survivors including through supporting sustainable community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programmes. The Co-Chairs invited Thailand to inform the States Parties the description of Thailand’s approach to CBR, how successful Thailand has been in ensuring services are accessible in all parts of the country, and the efforts that have been made to ensure that landmine and other ERW survivors are aware of and able to access CBR programmes. In addition, the Co-Chairs recalled that Thailand provided information in 2012 which highlighted efforts to enhance victim assistance efforts in the region through promoting regional and bilateral cooperation in a manner that focused on exchanging experience. The Co-Chairs invited Thailand to inform the States Parties the status of Thailand’s initiative to enhance cooperation efforts in the region, and the further regional and bilateral cooperation activities Thailand foresees undertaking in advance of the Review Conference in 2014.

64. Thailand reported that to provide quality care to survivors, Thailand integrates victim assistance into the national policy, plans and frameworks related to persons with disabilities whereby the rights and benefits of landmine survivors are the same rights and benefits the Country provides to any other persons with disabilities. This translates to a system that is inclusive and does not marginalize landmine survivors. Thailand further emphasised the linkage between the Cartagena Action Plan as it relates to victim assistance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and that since the ratifying the CRDP in 2009, Thailand has worked on creating a rights-based society empowering persons with disabilities, including mine victims. Thailand further reported that since its Persons with Disabilities Act of 2007 was enacted, it has established a Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities which supports an ever-growing array of activities and projects related to the protection and enhancement of quality of life for persons with disabilities including rehabilitation, education, vocational training, and other support mechanisms. The fund also provides micro-finance to persons with disabilities both to individuals and groups and all landmine survivors are entitled to these benefits.

65. The Co-Chairs recalled that Uganda provided information in 2012 that highlighted the challenges it faces with respect to data collection and information management given the lack of a centralised information management system for disability. The Co-Chairs
invited Uganda to inform the States Parties of the status of national efforts to develop a
centralised system and when Uganda expects such a system to be in place.

66. Uganda recalled that its Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance requires the
establishment of a reliable qualitative and quantitative database on disability by 2014. In its
efforts to achieve this objective, Uganda has undertaken a review of the existing data
collection tools on disability in use in Uganda and has harmonised these into one single
standard tool for use by all stakeholders. Uganda reported that it has conducted surveys to
identify survivors, noting that 1,124 survivors have been identified to date. In addition,
Uganda reported that a needs assessment of survivors and other persons with disabilities in
mine-affected communities was conducted and that a mapping of all disability-related
services and providers in mine-affected districts was undertaken. The mapping identified 42
service providers in the north and 4 in a district in the western part of the country. Uganda
noted that its intended next steps are to recruit, train and deploy required human resources
for effective data management and dissemination at all levels, and to establish a functional
central coordinating body to serve as a point of reference for disability-related information.

67. The Co-Chairs recalled that Uganda provided information in 2012 that highlighted
efforts to review all national legal and policy frameworks relevant to disabilities to
determine if existing frameworks are in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons
of Disabilities and to ensure that they effectively address the rights and needs of persons
with disabilities including landmine and other ERW survivors. Co-Chairs invited Uganda to
inform the States Parties the status of national efforts to review the National Policy on
Disability and the Ugandan Persons with Disabilities Act and make the necessary
modifications in order to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities including mine
survivors in accordance with the standards set by the Convention on the Rights of Persons
of Disabilities.

68. Uganda reported that in early 2013, a review of its National Policy on Disability and
the Persons with Disability Act commenced and is due for completion at the end of the
year. The aim of the review is to assess whether current legislation is in line with the
Convention on the Rights of Persons of Disabilities and identify what modifications would
be necessary. In addition, Uganda recalled that its Guidelines on Physical Accessibility,
which were adopted in 2011, have now been used to draft and finalise the national Building
Control Bill. Finally, Uganda reported that it has completed drafting a set of Guidelines on
Disability.

69. In addition, Uganda recalled that its Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance
includes as an objective to increase access to quality health care services in mind-affected
communities by 2014. Uganda reported that, as of May 2013, 649 survivors have accessed
medical treatment for various complications caused by landmines and other ERW.

70. The Co-Chairs invited Yemen to inform the States Parties of three examples of how
the State has acted to implement Cartagena Action Plan victim assistance commitments, the
progress that has been made, the main challenges that it has encountered, and the remaining
objectives that it still anticipates meeting between now and the Third Review Conference in
2014. Yemen shared its data collection figures with the States Parties noting that the Yemen
Executive Mine Action Centre recorded 28 victims during the period 2007 to 2013. Yemen
noted that survivors of landmines and other ERW have been identified by survey and have
been through an examination phase in order to be provided with medical support in
accordance with their needs. The types of medical support provided included surgery,
wheelchairs, artificial limb, physical therapy, crutches, and shoes.

71. On 30-31 May 2013, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim
Assistance convened an experts’ workshop which aimed to lay the groundwork for the
development of international guidelines on assistance to child victims. The workshop
identified the state of, tools and instruments available, and the stage of implementation in affected countries. The workshop also gathered input from affected States and other stakeholder on what aspects should be covered by guidelines to be established.