

That you also to Daniela for her excellent support and to the office for the very pleasant stay.

Fifth Conference for CCW Protocol V, 9-10 November 2011

New Zealand Statement on Victim Assistance

10.11.11 AM

Madame Co-ordinator,
allow me first to

May I convey the sincere appreciation of my delegation to you for the sterling work that Austria has undertaken for many years now on the important issue of victim assistance. We have no doubt that you will continue the good work of your predecessors.

Supporting victims to reintegrate into society and achieve greater social and economic inclusion should remain a key focus of our future efforts. The Plan of Action on victim assistance, formulated by Austria, remains an important component of Protocol V's work and we are pleased that it continues to attract strong support. The Plan of Action has provided an opportunity for sharper focus on victim assistance in the Protocol V context and recent discussions have demonstrated its broader application in the CCW as well. The establishment of a dedicated website on victim assistance is also a welcome initiative and will be a useful resource. The Victim Assistance Questionnaire provides a useful vehicle for High Contracting Parties to share information about their approaches to victim assistance and to identify potential gaps and challenges that may be the focus of future work. We are pleased that more than thirty countries have used the questionnaire to share information about their national experiences.

Like others, we share the view that while the questionnaire is valuable, it is no substitute for detailed annual reports on victim assistance. We support the efforts of the Co-ordinator to amend national reporting on victim assistance under Article 8 of Protocol V so as to provide an opportunity for High Contracting Parties to share information on victim assistance in a more structured way. We look forward to working with others to progress this initiative in the coming period.

We also support your recommendation to the Secretary-General to include a national report on victim assistance. Such a report will help to facilitate the sharing of information in a more structured way. We look forward to working with others to progress this initiative in the coming period.