**BACKGROUND NOTE**

**Plenary Session 2: “Facing the Challenges of Victim Assistance in Today’s Conflicts”**

Date and time: 15:00 - 16:15, Tuesday 5 February 2019

### Chair: **Ms. Alarcos Cieza**, Coordinator, Disability and Rehabilitation, World Health Organization

Speakers: **Dr. Mahpekay Sidiqy**, Physical Rehabilitation Therapist, Kabul Orthopedic Organisation, Afghanistan

**Mr. Giles Duley**, CEO & Founder, Legacy of War Foundation and Photographer

**Dr. Lucy Foss**, Research Programmes Manager, Centre for Blast Injury Studies, Imperial College London

**Colonel Mohammed Torgeman**, Director, Libyan Mine Action Centre

Location: Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Introduction**

The nature of conflicts today, which are increasingly urbanized and protracted and often include extensive use of improvised explosive devices, present specific challenges for mine action operators in the area of victim assistance. As the often ‘neglected’ pillar of mine action, this session will aim to raise awareness of the emerging challenges, research and promising innovations and perspectives.

**Purpose of the Session**

This session aims to identify the particular challenges of victim assistance from a variety of perspectives, ranging from academic research, to the perspective of a survivor who is also a medical doctor working with other survivors, and a national mine action authority developing a victim assistance strategy in the context of ongoing conflict.

**Format for the Plenary: (75 minutes)**

Introductory remarks by Chair 10 minutes

Presentation by Dr. Mahpekay Sidiqy 10 minutes

Presentation by Mr. Giles Duley 10 minutes

Presentation by Dr. Lucy Foss 10 minutes

Presentation by Col. Torgeman 10 minutes

Discussion and Q & A 20 minutes

Closing remarks by the Chair 5 minutes

**Food for Thought:**

* What are the specific challenges of victim assistance in your context? Have these changed in the last decade?
* Have you identified any particular best practice or innovative approaches?