



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

Third Review Conference

Maputo

Mine Ban Treaty

June 2014

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to represent Afghanistan's progress towards the Cartagena Action Plan (CAP). Following the involvement in the Cartagena Summit, we have been working with our colleagues in other ministries to meet the challenge to provide age-adequate and gender-sensitive assistances to mine survivors and other persons with disabilities through a holistic and integrated approach.

Since after the Cartagena Summit following brief and main activities have been taken place under the leadership of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disability Affairs (MoLSAMD) as focal point body and close support and cooperation of other agencies including the Ministry Public Health (MoPH) and Ministry of Education (MoE) as well as the national and international disability / VA stakeholders along with the generous support of donors.

The CAP translated into the major national languages of Dari and Pashto to enable discussion among Government counterparts and other stakeholders.

Afghanistan enforced the first ever comprehensive Law on the Rights and Benefits of Persons with Disabilities with focus on issues of VA and in March 2013 some articles amended to be more in line with CRPD principles, there has been an increase on financial support to war related disabilities from 1500 Afghani to 5000 Afghani per month where victims of landmine / ERW falls under the war related disabilities, other laws also incorporated disability and in particular the Electoral Law provided support to the political rights of persons with disabilities.

Other main achievements in further guaranteeing the rights of all categories of persons with disabilities including the survivors were the ratifications of following disability / VA conventions:

1. ILO convention (C 159 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983) on 2010,

2. Convention on Cluster Munitions CCM on September 2011
3. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CRPD and its Optional Protocol on September 2012, both CCM and CRPD also published in the official gazette number 1052

Though The Disability / VA rights are integral parts of the two under progress policies of: National Health Policy and inclusive Education and Child Friendly Policy and the Afghanistan National Policy for persons with Disabilities which is now in 3rd draft stage and translated in local language for further comments by various actors, this policy discusses the overall disability issues with CRPD principles and obligations, VA is one the key areas of this policy,

On April 2014 the MoLSAMD inaugurated the National Disability Institute to provide professional training and education on physical rehabilitation, hearing and visual impairments, advocacy and research activities,

The MACCA/UNMAS continued its financial, technical and capacity support to the government and also funded some of the VA prioritized projects in provinces

The MoLSAMD and other national and international agencies conducted awareness raising for Civilian Technical Assistance Program advisors within the various ministries, UN agencies and government agencies on how to include and mainstream disability into development and humanitarian agendas,

The MoLSAMD with the financial support of UNMAS/ MACCA and other stakeholders conducted the first physical accessibility conference for provincial mayors and also two national disability workshops conducted,

Afghanistan CBR Network hosted the fifth South Asian CBR conference in Kabul, and also two inter-country conferences on psychosocial support conducted in Afghanistan and Tajikistan,

During this period the Inter-Ministerial Working Committee on Disabilities established based on presidential decree and meanwhile regional and provincial Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group established and recently Afghanistan formed the National Partnership on Children with

Disabilities to discuss the issues of children with disabilities in line with Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities.

As structural support to disability both the Ministry of Public Health and Education established specific departments for disability issues such as: Disability and Rehabilitation Department (DRD) and Inclusive Education Department, at the same time the MoPH included disability in the revised health packages of: Basic Packages of Health Services and Essential Package of Hospital Services, included disability and rehabilitation into its developmental budget and also provided one week training on disability and rehabilitation issues for about 2000 health staff in 20 provinces. DRD developed four years strategy on physical rehabilitation and disability.

In terms of concrete achievements in education rights of persons with disabilities, we have made strides in inclusive education. To better support the inclusion of children with disabilities, the Ministry of Education trained 4185 school teachers and 3819 children with disabilities and their parents since 2009 on inclusive education in Afghanistan seeks to fulfill the right of all learners to a quality education.

The MoLSAMD, MoPH, MoE, MACCA and DMC jointly monitored projects funded by UNMAS / MACCA in Kabul, Kunar, Nuristan, Kandahar, Helmand, Bamyan, Hirat, Takhar and Balkh provinces in physical rehabilitation, physical accessibility, Mainstreaming Centers, peer support, vocational training, inclusive education, awareness, advocacy and capacity building for persons with disabilities, their families, community and government staff,

To support the government in professionalism the MoLSAMD with the financial support of the UNMAS/ MACCA trained 200 MoLSAMD staff on: administration, management, Advocacy, basic and advance database, ToT on disability rights, disability and rehabilitation, disability and decent work, disability and good governance.

It worth to thank and appreciate the continual support of ISU to VA issues indeed the ISU support and guidance has been very crucial in getting updates and at the same time I would like to thank all other generous donors where all our achievements made by their contribution and particularly the UNMAS/ MACCA, World Bank, Department of State, and EU,

While there is tangible progress on the ground in particular the ratification of conventions and amendment of disability law in legal support and advocacy, there are significant challenges in funding, capacity, sustainability, monitoring and evaluation to overcome. Our caseload is large – due in part to the significant number of victims – and physical infrastructure is limited. We also need to bolster our methods of monitoring and evaluating existing services. And, lastly, we need to do more to ensure that those with disability have real rights. In the coming years, we will strive to achieve our obligations towards and improve the lives of all Afghan with disability. We hope that you will support us in this.

Thank you.