



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

Standing Committee meetings

Of MBT

Geneva

June 2015

*Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to present my government's achievements and progress during 2014 regarding the fulfilment of victim assistance obligations under the MBT and other relevant treaties while also highlighting some of the challenges we face.

With regards to further guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities, including the victims of mines and ERW, Afghanistan signed the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled on 28 June 2013. Efforts to secure ratification of the treaty continued during 2014 and are ongoing.

The Ministry of Education (MoE), with the technical and financial support of the Inclusive and Child Friendly Education Coordination Working Group developed a new Inclusive and Child Friendly Education Policy. 2000 copies of the policy were printed and disseminated to relevant government and non-governmental organizations by the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), a project of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). 338 teachers and head teachers also received training on inclusive education in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Public Health's Disability and Rehabilitation Department, with the support of stakeholders, developed guidelines on spinal cord injury management for health staff and provided training to 250 health staff across the country on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on physical rehabilitation. With the support of the European Commission, 200 physiotherapists will be trained over the next three years and 20 individuals have already commenced two years of training for a diploma in orthopaedic technology. Once qualified, these personnel will facilitate the establishment of new orthopaedic centres as per the priorities of the Ministry.

In April 2014, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled inaugurated the National Disability Institute to provide professional training and education on physical rehabilitation, hearing and visual impairments, advocacy and research skills.

Through UNMACA, UNMAS continued its financial support for victim assistance projects prioritised by the Government. Physical rehabilitation centres were implemented by the Development and Ability Organization (DAO), Handicap International and the Kabul

Orthopaedic Organization (KOO) in Kabul, Kandahar and Kunar provinces; in Herat province Handicap International received support for economic reintegration activities including vocational training; and the Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO) provided psychosocial support, and disability awareness training to improve social inclusion.

Despite the achievements I describe today, victim assistance and disability organizations in Afghanistan currently face critical funding shortages and their capacities for service delivery and support are at risk of being lost.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the generous donors that have supported victim assistance and disability activities in Afghanistan, improving the lives of mine and ERW victims and other person with disability.

Thank you.