



**STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE IN UGANDA
STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION
GENEVA, 22ND JUNE, 2011
BY HERBERT BARYAYEBWA, COMMISSIONER, DISABILITY AND ELDERLY
MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. President,

The co- chairs,

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the republic of Uganda, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you for affording me an opportunity to provide you some highlights of what has been achieved since the Cartagena Summit of 2009.

Soon after the summit, the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014: on assisting the victims was disseminated to all stake holders alongside the Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance that had been developed in 2008. The purpose of the awareness raising sessions on the two documents was to create awareness on the relationship between two. The awareness raising sessions culminated in the review of Uganda's Comprehensive Plan to align it with the Cartagena Action Plan and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The revised Comprehensive Plan covers the period 2010- 2014. An assessment of the achievements and challenges encountered in the implementation of the plan will be carried out at the beginning of 2014 in preparation for the Third Review Conference that is expected to take place at the end of 2014.

Ladies and gentlemen, monitoring and evaluation of the Comprehensive Plan will be periodically conducted to ensure that activities are having a tangible impact on the quality of life of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. For this reason the plan contains clear, measurable objectives, indicators and targets against which results will be measured. These have been developed according to the thematic areas of emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support and social economic reintegration. We have requested assistance from the Implementation Support Unit to help us develop the tools needed to monitor implementation of the plan.

After reintegration of landmine survivors in the community, poverty has been identified as a key concern among landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. As a result two key programmes have been launched. First country wide a special grant programme for persons with disabilities has been started to cover the active poor. This grant is intended to help persons with disabilities to acquire employable skills. The special grant supports them to start income generating activities.

The government of the republic of Uganda has also launched the expanding social protection programme which has a component of a disability grant to cover the chronically poor persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups in the community. This pilot programme is supported by DFID, Irish AID, and UNICEF.

It is believed that these special social protection programmes will help in improving the quality of life of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Finally, I wish to express appreciation to all development partners for joining government in its effort to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. May the existing cooperation be strengthened further for the benefit of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Thank you for listening.