

World Disability Report, ICBL

Thank you for the presentation of this groundbreaking report. The ICBL is pleased by the launch of the World Disability Report this year and to have the report shared at this meeting.

The report has provided a global baseline on the living situation of persons with disabilities including that of landmine and cluster munitions survivors. The key challenges that the world report recorded, in particular the barriers that limit access of persons with disabilities to public services, are the same challenges to accessing public services faced by thousands of survivors in the most mine and cluster munitions affected countries. We are glad that the issue of accessibility has been seriously discussed and its importance was highlighted by the participants of the victim assistance parallel program on Tuesday.

Other findings of the report, and particularly the recommendations, link closely with the ongoing work of victim assistance through the mine ban treaty. We are pleased that the report includes experiences in mine affected countries and includes research and reporting by ICBL member NGOS. It also includes the personal testimony of a mine survivor speaking about social exclusion, thus raising awareness about the situation of survivors, along with other persons with disabilities.

The reporting compliments the annual monitoring of victim assistance efforts produced by the ICBL-CMC. We are encouraged that recommendations are very much in line with the recommendations of the ICBL-CMC on victim assistance for mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities. For example, the Disability Report calls for involving people with disabilities while survivor participation is a key advocacy goal of ours. The report also demonstrates the need to provide adequate funding and improve affordability, in line with our calls for sustainable national and international funding, that are based on feedback from implementers. In addition, the report recommends increasing public awareness and understanding of disability, an advocacy priority for ICBL-CMC Victim assistance focal points.

The recommendations to improve disability data collection and strengthen and support research on disability, support our calls for states to fulfill Cartagena Action Plan commitments to collect adequate data in order to implement appropriate services. The World Report and its recommendations will be relevant for at least a decade to come. In this time, the Cartagena action plan should have been fulfilled and through that process should contribute to fulfilling the CRPD and the recommendations of the World Report. We look forward to our seeing the results of our mutually reinforcing efforts.

Taking this opportunity we would like to call on States Parties that have not joined the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to join as soon as possible.