



**Ethiopian Statement to the Standing Committee on the
Intercessional Meeting of Anti - Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(21-25 May, 2012)**

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22 June 2012

Geneva

**Ethiopia's progress report on the Intersessional Meetings of the
Standing Committees of the Mine Ban Treaty on persons with
disabilities including interventions on victim assistance
(2011)**

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman!

Distinguished delegates

Dear participants.

I speak on behalf of the Ethiopian government to share with you the country's major achievements during 2011 in relation to disability in general and the progress it has made on the intervention of victim assistance in particular.

First of all, I wish to inform you that the country is progressively realize the humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of anti-personnel mines and the deadly impact of ERW and UXO. Hence, a number of efforts have been made to get rid of the occurrences of APM accidents from the affected areas on one hand, and rehabilitation of the victimized people according to their need on the other.

It is now widely understood that disability is an issue of human rights and development. With this understanding, Ethiopia remains committed to and comply with the international conventions *the Anti- Personnel Ban Convention, UNCRRDs, the ILO conventions* and other human right treaties and declarations. National government Policies developed, legislatives enacted programmes, strategies and projects developed to ensure the right and opportunities of PWDs.

Mr. Chairman

Allow me to say few words regarding the state of PWDs in Ethiopia including land mine survivors after the 11 state party meeting. Ethiopia has continued its efforts to fulfill its obligations put forward in the Cartagena Plan of Action and has made some improvements. The major achievements in 2011 include the following:

With regard to UN Convention for the Right of Persons with Disabilities /CRPD:

A well organized National Council in charge of coordinating, evaluation and Monitoring the implementation of the CRPD drawn from all relevant Ministries, NGOs, DPOs and stake holders has been established. The council is chaired by MoLSA. Directive was developed; and signed by H.E the minister and was issued to the National Council for effective implementation. An initial report depicting what Ethiopia had done after ratifying of the Convention will be sent to the International Committee on the Right of Persons with Disabilities in June 2012.

With regard to national policies, plan of actions and legal frameworks.

Last year the country has introduced a health insurance policy where all citizens will have an opportunity to have equitable services in the health sector. Health care financing is the integral part of the policy in which PWDs including persons affected by landmines/ERW are benefited.

A Technical Advisory committee /TAC/ was established to materialize the **National Medical Rehabilitation Guideline line** and the **National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy** issued by MoH and MoLSA. Members of TAC were drawn from HI, ICRC and German Leprosy Relief Association and ALERT Hospital. It is co-chaired by MoLSA and MoH. A draft road map was also prepared by the TAC for effective implementation.

In the reporting period, directive for implementation of the proclamation on the right to employment opportunities for persons with disabilities No.568/2008 has been formulated, printed and issued. There have been lots of difficulties to materialize the law due to lack of implementation procedure prior this directive. Currently, both federal and regional governments have this directive in place for implementing, monitoring and follow- up of the legislation.

In another development, the final version of the draft Social Protection Policy is ready for approval by the council of ministers of FDRE. As we have reported in the 11 SPM this policy is the first of its kind in the country to be financed by government led budget and to provide equitable services for people who are at risk and victims of social problem including land mine victims. The policy document contains a separate topic entitled Support for persons with disabilities. It is certain that all people affected by poverty, marginalization and exclusion will be addressed according to their need and problems.

In 2011 Ethiopia has introduced a new private pension proclamation in addition to the former public proclamation (amended) where both proclamations granted special privilege to PWDs. It is proclaimed that if an individual is a disabled person, he or she will receive pension benefit for more number of years as compared to a person without disabilities.

Regarding socio-economic integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities

MOLSA has been working to create coordination necessary for expansion of inclusive education and special need education with Ministry of Education. Committee drawn from the two ministries has been established to boost the program.

With regard to Collection and use of data

The country has launched e-service and portal structure that enables the country to have a well-designed management information system related to social welfare and social protection activities. For the first time in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, a separate unit and full time data analysts (Professionals) are assigned in this category to facilitate the data collection and dissemination process. Ministry of information, Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation and ICRC are taking part to materialize this activity. ICRC has taken the initiative to develop the format. Moreover, the ministry has a plan to put in place a separate data collection system for victims of Land mine.

With regard to Geographic Coverage

According to the country's growth and transformation plan /GTP/ the service coverage related to persons with disabilities will be expanded by increasing the previously existing prosthetic orthotic centers (POCs) in number from 13 to 16 and the number of beneficiaries from 9,000 to 41,000 annually in the planned period. Based on this plan in 2011 two new centers are established in two local governments, Benshanguel & Gambella. Another new center which was not in the plan was also established in the local government of Oromia. The government has distributed prosthetic orthotic and mobility devices, parts, components and is providing technical supports to those newly emerging centers

Awareness raising and Advocacy work

MOLSA celebrated the international Disability day, White Cane day, International day of Deaf and the World Leprosy day colorfully at a national level in collaboration with DPOs. Different advocacy activities were conducted In line with the celebrations.

Two National Awareness training workshops have been conducted for 100 representatives to make front line actors and other stakeholders to be familiar with the Directives and the proclamation of the Right to Employment for Persons with Disabilities.

Lend your Leg event was jointly organized by MoLSA and ICBL to mark **mine free world** in different sectors and places of Addis Ababa including in the campus of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The state minister was officially opened the event by demonstrating himself by rolling-up his pant leg to draw attention to the landmine problem.

With regard to Accessibility

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between MOLSA and Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and to promote physical accessibility in public building and roads specially focusing on the Ethiopian building code. The two ministries have established a technical committee. The committee has developed terms of reference for future activities in the country.

Mr. Chairman

It is worth noting in this instance the contribution ICBL to Ethiopia when its delegation Mr. Loren visited last year to give recommendation with regard to our intervention about how Victim assistance should be integrated into broader national policies plan of actions and strategies. We have benefited from the discussion on how to deal with the issue and more.

Lastly, let me express my appreciation to all our partners particularly ICRC, UNICEF, Handicap International, for the support and contribution they provide in our efforts to change the quality of lives of persons with disabilities in general and victims of landmines in particular and hoping they continue this important collaboration.

Thank you for your attention!