



**Intervention by Aleksander Kecman, on behalf of Raising the Voice Participants
Landmine Survivors Network
Tuesday, February 10, 2004**

Meetings of Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Integration of the Anti-personnel Landmine Convention

Economic Re-integration

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all we would like to thank the Co-Chairs for their important work on article 6.3. Next we would like to thank the organizers of the Raising the Voices Program for having enabled us to be present and actively participate in this meeting.

Our presentation is about the economic integration of landmine survivors. As landmine survivors, we are persons with specific needs that are persons with disabilities.

Economic rights are contained in existing international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Standard Rules on Equalization of opportunities on Persons with Disabilities, specifically, rules 7, 16, and 21.

We also note that a draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities¹ has an extensive article on economic integration.²

We urge governments to implement the recommendations of the Standard Rules into binding national law and that they participate in the development of the Draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We consider that the responsibility for financing national programs and measures, ensuring persons with disabilities equally enjoy their rights, lies with the State. States need to ensure that disability aspects are properly integrated into their national budgets.

We would like to recommend the following:

1. Laws should not discriminate against landmine survivors
2. Tax reduction for the employers who employ landmine survivors
3. Promote professional training, such as re-qualification
4. Encourage self-employment, especially small businesses and home based businesses
5. Favourable loan conditions for self employment of landmine survivors
6. Companies that employ landmine survivors should have priorities in tendering and contracting
7. Flexible hours for landmine survivors
8. Ensure that landmine survivors receive equal and adequate pay for equal work
9. Stimulate employment of landmine survivors in the public sector
10. Establish a fund that is financed through the taxation of luxury goods for pilot programs.

All these recommendations are equally important for landmine survivors and we would like the governments in participation with landmine survivors to determine how these recommendations can be prioritized.

Again, thank you very much for your kind attention.

¹ A Draft Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Person with Disabilities.

² Article 22.