



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT BY MR. HERBERT BARYAYEBWA FOR THE MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND SOCIO-
ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION DURING PARALLEL PROGRAMME
FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE EXPERTS**

DATE: 21ST – 25TH JUNE, 2010, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Herbert Baryayebwa
Commissioner, Disability and Elderly
Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
P. O. Box 7136
KAMPALA – UGANDA.

Tel. No.: 256-414-252952
Mobile No.: 256 (0) 772 593920
E-mail: baryayebwah@yahoo.com

The Co-Chairs

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to first of all extend my gratitude to you for affording me an opportunity to provide an update to you on Uganda's efforts in the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014.

Soon after the Second Review Conference, an awareness raising meeting was organized. The meeting brought together stakeholders involved in the planning and implementing programmes for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

As you are aware Uganda developed a five year comprehensive plan on victim assistance (2008-2012). The participants at the meeting including landmine survivors expressed the need to review the comprehensive plan to align it with the Cartagena Action Plan. Consequently, a proposal to review the plan was developed and submitted to the Government of Australia for support. I am delighted to report that the proposal has been accepted and a national workshop of stakeholders to review the plan is planned for 4th – 6th August 2010. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to express great appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Australia for the timely support.

The Government of Uganda has continued to implement the Mine Action Victim Assistance project in four districts in Northern Uganda. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as a lead agency on

disability matters in the country has continued to receive financial support from UNDP. The funding is also extended to the line Ministries of Health and Education and Sports through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

With this support the following activities among others have been carried out:

The activities covered include:

- i. Baseline Survey was conducted to establish the needs of survivors, service providers and services available.
- ii. Using the baseline survey results, a Mine Action Victim Assistance Project was developed.
- iii. In conjunction with district technical officers landmine survivors were assessed and referred for appropriate medical rehabilitation and treatment. 322 landmine survivors have received treatment from different health units. 114 survivors have received prosthesis from orthopaedic workshops.
- iv. A Training manual on psychosocial support has been developed.
- v. 64 Community Development Workers and Rehabilitation Officers in psychosocial support have been trained.
- vi. 180 Survivors are currently on six month training on vocational and apprenticeship skills.
- vii. Procurement and distribution of livelihood support items to promote social-economic reintegration of survivors – oxen and ox-plough to till the gardens of survivors; tri-cycles and bicycles to ease their transport, beehives and so on.

In order to expand the Mine Action Victim Assistance Project and create a sense of national ownership, the Government of Uganda has allocated additional funds for implementation of activities for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. A sum of \$746,000 were secured in 2009/10 financial year to support income generating activities. A sum of \$1,492,000 has been included in the budget for 2010/11 financial year.

Although a number of achievements have been registered in the implementation of activities on victim assistance, Uganda still faces challenges. Inadequate funding has not enabled us to extend the project to cover all affected districts. However, a project proposal has been designed to expand activities to other affected areas. The planned activities for 2010 among others include: National workshop to review the National Plan of Action to take into account Cartagena Action Plan, finalization of the Management Information System, training of data management officers, assessment and treatment of survivors, conducting home based activities, strengthening landmine survivor groups, skills development through vocational training and awareness raising on CRPD, Mine Ban Treaty and Cluster Munitions.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the donor community for the support. However, it is also important to note that there is still more to do to reach all landmine survivors; hence the need to request for more support from the donor community. It is through such concerted effort that the needs and rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities will be progressively realized.

Thank you for listening.