

Eritrea

Statement  
on  
Victim Assistance

Mr. Chair (President),

At the outset let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude on behalf of my delegation to the Government and the people of Cambodia for the warm reception at our arrival and generous hospitality throughout the course of our stay in *Phnom Penh*

Mr. Chair,

As the legacy of war in Eritrea, land mines and unexploded ordinances have maimed thousands of people. Currently there are more than 20,000 disabled persons with various types of degrees of disabilities whose livelihoods have been negatively affected. Based on its principle that people with disabilities are entitled to live a dignified life enjoying equal opportunities, the Government of Eritrea has put in place a comprehensive policy that ensures the rights and dignities of Persons with Disability pertaining, inter-alia, to rehabilitation, health, education, employment, culture and family integration.

Such policy measures are mainstreamed and are entrusted to the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare to act as a lead line ministry in order to ensure that preventive and rehabilitative services are provided to landmine victims as well as to other persons with disability. The main measures, that have been taken, by different stakeholders so far includes Community and Institution Based Rehabilitation Programmes; Physical Rehabilitation with Orthopedic Appliances; Socio-Economic Rehabilitation.

The Community Based Rehabilitation Programme of the MLHW aims among other things, at: (i) sensitizing families of land mine victims including other persons with disabilities, (ii) strengthen preventive and rehabilitation measures, (iii) encourage the sharing of community resources, (iv) assist the disabled in securing gainful employment and other economic opportunities, (v) promote inclusive education, and (vi) facilitate access to health facilities. The MLHW has to