

GOOD MORNING JUMBRIEPSUOR, DEAR FRIENDS OF THE MINE BAN TREATY.

I'm happy to be with you in Geneva on this special day- the 15th anniversary of our treaty and International Day for People with Disabilities, people like me. Last year we were very happy to have you with us in Cambodia, where we asked you to push for progress. This week we are calling on you to ACT – Act today so we can have a mine-free tomorrow. Especially we need:

1. All of you, ALL, to join and implement our treaty

The whole of Sub Saharan Africa is on board now – congratulations! Now we need ALL of Africa to join! When Poland soon ratifies, all of the European Union will be part of the treaty . USA it is time to join your NATO allies and the rest of the Americas. Come on USA!

Asia, dear Asia, what about us? We are so behind the other continents on universalization! Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar you have many victims who want the world cleared of these horrible weapons. Please join the Mine Ban Treaty and make sure the ban covers all of Asia too.

2. Please ACT so that by 2020 the world is cleared of mines, or nearly! With more action now, more urgency – most countries can finish by then!

3. And we need programmes and systems that reach people with disability where they live and which help improve the quality of their lives and uphold their rights

What is quality of life? I have a question for you?

What makes your life happy? Our people in the villages tell us they need the chance to make a decent living again –so they can have a place to call home, so that they and their family have enough food to eat, so that they can live in dignity. And they want to be treated with respect and treated the same as everyone else – by people in their communities, by their government, and by the laws and rules that affect their daily lives. They sound just like us here.

By the 2014 Review conference, I want every affected country to say very clearly what is the real situation for victims in their country, and what specific actions were

implemented that survivors said improved their quality of life. And I want donors to insist on this...

As the outgoing president said, **“This is the heart of the matter.”**

Thank you.