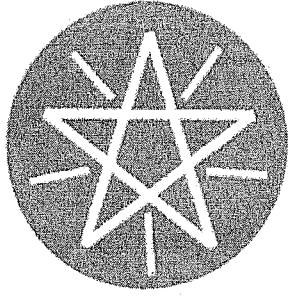


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**FDRE**

**ETHIOPIA**

**Ethiopian Statement on the 12 MSI  
03-07 Dec. 2012**

04 Dec. 2012

**GENEVA**

Thank you very much Chairperson

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I speak on behalf of the Ethiopian government on the progress made in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in general, and interventions of victim assistance in particular based on the Cartagena Plan of Action (2010-2014).

First of all I would like to congratulate the organizing committee of the 12MSP and ISU for their successful efforts to bring this occasion a reality.

I am also pleased to convey a message of congratulation from my government to ICBL for celebration of its 20 anniversary with a very inspiring journey of success.

It is not rational to skip without mentioning the historic event that we exist at present. As we all know we are on mid-way in our voyage of implementing the Cartagena Plan of Action 2010-2014 to realize the goal of **a world free of anti-personnel mines** and Ethiopia as a state party to the Convention is among those State Parties who have shared midterm-review of progress in implementing the Victim Assistance provisions in connection with the Cartagena plan of Action. The Challenges we have been confronted in due course of our implementation time is also part of the progress report.

At the outset, realizing Ethiopia as one of the most mine affected country in the world, my government gives priority attention and set goals of protecting civilians from scourges of land mines and explosive remnants of war to remove all anti-personnel mines in the country. The major challenge that remains is to provide

survivors with the necessary support including physical rehabilitation, psychological support, and social and economic inclusion they need.

Mr. Chairman,

As we have reported both to the State party and to victim assistance parallel programmes during the intercessional meetings, Ethiopia has no national victim assistance specific programme. The land mine victims in Ethiopia are addressed with other persons with disabilities. The promotion and protection of human rights of persons with disabilities including land mine survivors is directed by legislative measures including international human right instruments so long as they are incorporated with the country's legal system. Their implementation is realized by establishment of structures at different administrative levels. Further to this, subsequent enforcement procedures such as directives, strategies plan of actions.

Mr. Chairperson

Allow me to share with you some information about the current status of Ethiopia in relation to disability and victim assistance based on the Cartagena plan of action.

Ethiopia has emphasized the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies for sustainable development.

The government Growth and Transformation Plan /GTP (2010-2015) included the issue of disability as one component and incorporated persons with disabilities to be beneficiaries in the course of implementation period.

As one of the specific strategy, Ethiopia has already developed a ten year National Plan of Action /NPA 2012-2021 for persons With Disabilities. The CRPD and the Cartagena Plan of Actions were reinforcing opportunities for developing this NPA. The NPA is based upon the principles set forth by the CRPD. Hence, implementing

the National Plan of Action of Persons with Disabilities implies implementing the CRPD and the Cartagena Plan of Action.

The NPA rests on the principle of INCLUSION. In this document, it is stated that “The NPA is based on a vision of a fully inclusive Ethiopian society, where children, youth and adults with disabilities, regardless of gender or kind of disability, as well as their parents and families, enjoy the same rights to participate in the same civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres and to access the same medical, educational, social services, training, work and leisure opportunities enjoyed by other citizens. In such an inclusive society, people with disabilities are accepted, their abilities are valued, their diversity and independence are recognized, their human rights are protected, and they participate actively in the life and development of their communities and the nation”.

The institutional arrangement for the implementation of the NPA and CRPD requires the involvement of various Ministries and Regional Bureaus as disability is deemed to be a cross-cutting issue. In lights of this, the NPA is decided to be coordinated by a National Monitoring Committee chaired by MoLSA and composed of key Federal Ministries, Regional Bureaus, and NGOs working on disability, DPOs and religious institutions. This committee is guided by directive issued by MoLSA

The strategy for the implementation of the Ethiopian NPA follows a twin track approach where one of the twin tracks focuses on mainstream programs and services which are not specifically designed for persons with disabilities. The other track that focuses on disability-specific programs and services addresses individual needs.

Ethiopia as a state party to the convention on the rights of PWDs is expected to submit its initial report to the secretary general of the UN on the measure taken and

progress made over the last two years Now, we are at the stage of preparing the report to finalize in due time with participation of all concerned bodies in the country.

Another very important breakthrough in the promotion, protection and inclusion of PWDs is the development of National Social protection policy which is the first of its kind in the country to address the need and problems of poor, vulnerable and marginalized sector of the population including the various types and degrees of disabilities. The policy is unique, because of its protection, prevention, promotion and transformation nature and essentially addressing vulnerable communities in a single programme known as provision of basic social services.

Recognizing the issue of PWDs, mine survivors included is a question of human right and development, the government has developed and issued a National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy. The strategy is an intervention towards a systematic approach to facilitate and promote the expansion of physical rehabilitation services in the country.

Ms. /Mr. Chairman!

It goes without saying that in the course of any implementation of policies laws, strategies and programmes there are inevitable occurrences that slow or hinder expected achievements and goals. In the same manner, Ethiopia's implementation of Cartagena Plan of Action has confronted with certain limitations and challenges the major one being that due to lack of implementation capacity, in terms of trained manpower and attaining the required budget creates significant drawbacks against our full implementation of disability related policies, laws and plans.

Mister Chairperson!

In order to overcome the challenges and problems that we have been encountered in the course of our implementation period, we have identified and set forward the following activities to be considered for future interventions.

- Developing structures and capacity building for the implementation of the Social Protection Policy and Strategy at different level of administrative in the country.

- Increase the number and level of human resource in the field particularly of social welfare workforce training and placement at federal and regional level, and enhance the participation of development partners.
- Support and encourage Disabled Veteran Associations to establish National Association, and to improve their livelihood by involving them in various development activities.
- Put in place mechanisms to effectively monitor the progress made in implementation of disability related policies and programmes within the broader national plan;

Mister Chairman!

Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all our partners particularly ICRC, UNICEF, ILO, 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.

Thank for your attention.