



**16th Meeting of State Parties
to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**
Vienna 18-21 December 2018
Statement on Mine Victim Assistance



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my delight to be standing in front of you here today representing my country Somalia. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Austria for hosting the 16th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

As many of you know, our beloved country continues to suffer from a number of humanitarian crises, not least of which is the problem of mines. Decades of conflicts have left our country with a legacy of landmines and unexploded ordnances which we fight hard to address, trying to overcome the devastating impact this has on our infrastructure and our lives. Thousands of victims have fell; injured, maimed, or killed, tearing families apart and resulting in a great loss to our country. The majority of these victims are misfortunate civilians who woke up in the morning and proceeded on their daily shores unaware that their lives and that of their families will be forever changed with no fault of their own...

The UNMAS historical IMSMA database has registered 1249 victims, but we know that this database is not updated and that the numbers are incomplete. We plan to initiate a national mine action survey to register all victims wherever they are and do our best to follow up on them and their needs. To do that, we need every possible support from the international community, especially that currently our Victim Assistance Program lacks any kind of support.

To date, our lives, our safety, and the safety of our children continues to be threatened by explosives, AP mines, and other devices. Taking the opportunity of our presence here today to discuss “20 Years of Success: Fulfilling the Promise of the Convention by 2025”, we reach out to you to help Somalia be part of this promise so that we in turn can make and fulfill a promise to our people. Help us work together to fulfill a promise that we are making today through which we do our best to eliminate the threat to lives and work towards a country where our generation and future generations can live in safety and peace.

Thank you.