

Republic of the Sudan

7th Meeting of States Parties of the
" *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Prohibition and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on their Destruction*

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Statement on Victim Assistance Progress

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Sudan Statement on Victim Assistance Progress

Madam President, distinguished delegates, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

Landmine/UXO contamination threat in the Sudan to civilian lives is becoming more and more evident as the population start to move from location to location.

On 11 and 12 September, in two separate mine accidents 23 civilians were killed and 2 injured when anti tank mines hit their vehicles in Kassala province, in the east of Sudan. We deeply regret that that we were not able to save these innocent lives.

The Republic of the Sudan has given serious attention to the issue of Victim Assistance. Victim Assistance in the Sudan has been integrated into the overall issue of disability under the Ministry of Social Welfare which is a member of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA).

The existing national laws cover all kinds of disabilities which provide a number of benefits to people with disability including free transportation, free education, free health care and employment of 5% of workforce from people with disabilities within the government institutions and the encouragement for the private sector to do so.

Sudan participated in the 8th session of the ad hoc committee on a comprehensive and integral international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in New York last month.

Within the Ministry of the Social Welfare, National Authority on Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO) with about 120 staff members has been established with its head office in Khartoum, and five sub offices in key locations in the most affected areas by landmines. It is worth mentioning that all the staff and running costs of NAPO are covered by the government.

I would also like to highlight the fact that the Republic of the Sudan has so far spent about 10 million USD to establish the Al Amal Rehabilitation Center which has all the necessary facilities for physical and psychological rehabilitation of war victims including victims of landmines/ERW. In addition, the center provides various opportunities of vocational training including auto mechanic, tailoring, computing, etc to enable the disable to acquire income generating skills.

I would also like to mention that the ICRC is working in partnership with the Government of Southern Sudan for the establishment of a rehabilitation Center in Juba. As a first step in this regard, ICRC has selected 17 Orthotics and Prosthetics Technician who will be trained in Tanzania.

With support from the UN Mine Action Office, US\$ 1.7 has been mobilized from the Government of Japan through Human Security Trust Fund for Socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine/UXO victims. The concerned government authorities and the UN agencies are working together to ensure tangible achievements in the VA field. Thanks to the government and people of Japan for this generous contribution.

On the question of long term strategies, I am pleased to report that with technical and advisory support from UNDP, a five year Victim Assistance Strategy has been developed which is a part of the National Mine Action Strategic Framework for 2006-2011.

Madam President:

In the Sudan a lot has been achieved with support from ICRC, the UN and the donor community. However, we have a long way ahead to achieve the full rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration of landmine/UXO victims. Therefore, the Sudan will pursue its efforts to meet the needs of the victims to the maximum extent.

Our priorities for 2006/2007 include:

- 1. Establish five additional sub offices of NAPO in the affected areas.**
- 2. Establish a surveillance system for mine/UXO victims**
- 3. Conduct a needs assessment for Socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine/ERW survivors in the Sudan through UNMAS.**
- 4. Implement of the projects identified by needs assessment together with UNDP and other players.**
- 5. Conduct various types of vocational training for the victims and link it with the Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes as it is one of the priorities for the implementation of the CPA.**
- 6. Support the National NGOs to assume a greater role in the provision of various types of support services to the victims.**
- 7. Identify additional partners and donors for victims assistance.**

Thank you all for listening.