



The Republic of Uganda

**EIGHTH 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,  
DEAD SEA, JORDAN, 18-22 NOVEMBER 2007**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. SULAIMAN KYEBAKOZE MADADA**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED AFFAIRS  
MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SIMBAMANYO BUILDING  
PLOT 2 LUMUMBA AVENUE  
P.O BOX 7136  
KAMPALA  
EMAIL: [skymadada@yahoo.com](mailto:skymadada@yahoo.com)**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you Mr. President for allowing me to take the floor to provide an update on the efforts of Government of Uganda to address the rights and needs of land mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in my country. My ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, advocates for the promotion and protection of fundamental rights of the poor and others in vulnerable situations including landmine survivors. The technical coordination role for victim assistance is becoming an area of increasing priority for my ministry in collaboration with the office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Health. We are working on building partnerships with other ministries and all key actors in disability, land mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

At the previous meetings we have reported on the extensive, legislation and policies in Uganda aimed at protecting array of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including landmine survivors. However, we recognised that while there were many laws and policies, we needed a comprehensive plan of action to operationalise the existing policies with aim of improving the quality of life of land mine survivors and other persons with disabilities

Following the last Intercessional Meeting, on my return to Uganda I initiated a process to organise the first national workshop on the issues of Victim Assistance. On August 7-9 A comprehensive <sup>Plan</sup> for land mine survivors and other pdws, was developed in a participatory way with parliamentarians, representatives from mine affected areas, technocrats from key ministries, Disability People's Organisation's, and mine survivors themselves.

The overall objective of the workshop was to enable the Government of Uganda, in collaboration with all relevant actors to develop a comprehensive plan of action for the period 2008-2012 to address rights and needs of landmine survivors, other persons with disabilities

and older persons. This plan takes into account the principles of inclusion, empowerment, and victim assistance as a development issue (multi-sectoral collaboration).

Time does not permit me to go into all the detail of the comprehensive plan of Action. A full report will soon be available. However, I provide a summary of objectives developed during the discussions.

- Develop and disseminate guidelines for local government to integrate disability issues in all planning processes by 2011.
- Establish fully equipped Village Teams, with at least one third of the members being women, trained in emergency first aid in at least 25 percent of mine/Explosive Remnants of War affected villages by 2010.
- Increase the provision of assistive devices and strengthen the functional capacity of existing orthopaedic workshops by 2012.
- Increase participation of children with disabilities including landmine survivors in primary and post-primary education in mine/Explosive Remnants of War affected communities by at least 40 percent by 2012.
- Strengthen existing institutional frameworks, building new structures if required, and formulate regulations and guidelines for the implementation of existing laws, policies and acts relating to persons with disabilities by 2009.
- Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by 2008

Before I conclude, I take this opportunity to thank the government of Austria for its financial support and in particular Mr. Markus Reiterer, the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, for his participation in the Comprehensive Planning Workshop. Thanks are also extended to UNDP and the Norwegian Association of the Disabled

for their logistical and financial support, Sheree Bailey, victim assistance specialist Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and Jane Brouillette for their technical guidance. The Workshop was a success and it engaged relevant ministries and other key actors in victim assistance. A comprehensive plan of action that takes into account the objectives of existing policies for public health, rehabilitation, education, poverty reduction, social development, and the disability sector more generally was developed.

However, there is still a lot of work to be done to implement the plans to achieve our SMART objectives. This will require coordination and collaboration. Uganda is working very hard to ensure that the plan becomes a reality; but they are faced with many competing priorities. Until September, Uganda benefited from the support of a UNDP technical advisor through the mine action program. However, this support is no longer available. In order to achieve our aims and fully implement the plan we need further technical support and I call upon the international community to look favourably on our request for specialist support.

Finally allow me to highlight some of the positive developments that have happened since the land mine victim assistance comprehensive planning workshop was held on 7-9 August 2007, in Kampala.

1. Formulation of regulations and guidelines for the existing laws on PWDs as agreed in part 6 of the comprehensive plan 2008-2012 has been directed by Cabinet and my Ministry has started on this.

## 2. COMMON WEALTH DISABLED PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE, 4-7 NOVEMBER, 2007.

Uganda is hosting the common wealth heads of governments meeting {CHOGM} 23-25 November 2007.

For the first time in the history of CHOGM the disability fraternity held a pre-CHOGM disability conference, which attracted participants across the world including the world president of the blind. Significant about this meeting was the call for the ratification of the U.N convention on pwds and the Optional Protocol by the 52 common wealth countries among others. To this effect I have written to H.E the President of Uganda requesting him to include these recommendations in his speech.

## 3. NORTHERN UGANDA POST WAR RECOVERY AND RESETLEMENT PROGRAMME

H.E the president of Uganda, in the Month October, 2007, launched the above programme , putting special emphasis to the pwds and the war victims.

## 4. AFRICAN ADVOCACY U.N CONVENTION ON PWDS SCHEDULED FOR 2008

A meeting between my ministry and the Cape Town secretariat leadership was held on 8 November, 2007 in which we planned to hold a regional meeting in December 2007 in Kampala. In

additional to evaluation of the ten year African action plan for pwds, we hope to utilise this high profile meeting to raise awareness on the U.N convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The challenge is funding.

#### 5. POST LAND MINE PLANNING WORKSHOP, FOLLOW UP MEETING BETWEEN MY MINISTRY AND MUBENDE CAUSALITY BARRACKS

Having participated in the land mine planning workshop the leadership of Mubende army barracks{war victims-soldiers are kept and given some rehabilitation training},met my ministry and agreed together with the Ministry of Defence and to bring on board Ministry of Finance to implement the social and economic reintegration of these war casualties.

#### 6. UGANDA SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM

I accompanied the Uganda Special Olympics team to participate in the Shanghai, China world Special Olympics games. Uganda managed to win four gold medals and over twenty other medals. The President of Uganda facilitated the team by providing \$50,000. The Uganda Press Association voted the Special Olympics Team as the best sports personalities of the month.

Thank you.

**For God and My Country**