



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OPENING REMARKS

BY

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PERMANENT SECRETARY
MGLSD**

AT THE NATIONAL LANDMINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE DIALOGUE

DATE: 10th OCTOBER, 2018

**VENUE: MUNYONYO COMMONWEALTH RESORT HOTEL,
KAMPALA**

- **Hon. Ministers**

- **Your Excellences, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners**
- **Hon. Members of Parliament**
- **Development Partners**
- **Technical officers from the Landmine Victim Assistance Implementing Support Unit in Geneva**
- **Technical staff of Ministry of GLSD and other Government MDAs**
- **Civil Society and Non- Governmental Organizations**
- **The Disability Fraternity**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I allow me take this opportunity and welcome you all to this important National Dialogue on landmine Victim Assistance. We are indeed honored by your presence on this important occasion when the Government of Uganda with support from the European Union and the Anti- Personnel Landmine Convention Implementing Support Unit bring stakeholders together in the quest to revitalize the Landmine Victim Assistance Activities in Uganda. This is yet again another opportunity for my country to reaffirm its commitment to disability inclusion.

I am aware that the dialogue is held under the theme; “*building on progress*”, which simply implies reawakening the activities on Landmine Victim Assistance which were last supported in the year 2012. This will go a long way to support my Governments’ effort of service delivery and inclusion of all the categories of Persons with Disabilities in the development agenda, including those that were affected by the landmines.

As you are aware, Uganda was one of the first countries to ratify the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1999, out of all the 29 countries that ratified this convention.

In the same way, Uganda ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008 without any reservations and in the same year, a Comprehensive Landmine Victim Assistance Plan (2008-2012) was developed.

This Plan was a framework to respond to the needs of landmine survivors, other Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons who were in emergency and conflict situations to enable them participate and re-integrate into the development process.

Further, the plan was to guide the Ministry of GLSD and other stakeholders to assess the extent to which objectives of the plan were being met.

In line with the Maputo Action Plan, Uganda has continued to use the twin track approach of affirmative action through the implementation of the Plan and mainstreaming issues on landmine survivors in the broader context of disability and social services provision for all Persons with Disabilities.

More recently, Uganda was one of the ten high priority Commonwealth countries targeted alongside Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Zambia and Bangladesh to participate in the first ever global disability summit, which gave us an opportunity to showcase our achievements towards disability inclusion. It was also an opportunity where Uganda pledged more action for inclusion of disability issues in all the development processes.

Therefore, I believe that this dialogue is very timely in helping Uganda to achieve its intended objective of serving the landmine victims and survivors as well as all the other Persons with Disabilities.

I hope that our discussions today intensify all our efforts towards disability inclusion in all spheres and I declare this two day National Dialogue open.

For God and my Country