



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's Statement on Victim Assistance

Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

Fourth Review Conference to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention

25-29 November 2019

Oslo, Norway

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This statement is delivered on behalf the Ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs. The new State Ministry for Martyrs and Disability Affairs serves as leading ministry for all affairs and activities related to Victims and Persons with Disabilities. Based on the MMD database, 350,000 war related victims are registered with that ministry out of which 34,000 of them are victims of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

The large numbers of survivors require access to basic healthcare and specialized services including physical therapy and psychosocial support and so on. The available services in Afghanistan at present time cannot suffice the increasing needs of victims and persons with disability, not only in terms of quantity and coverage but also from quality point of view. In particular the victims in persons with disability who are living in rural areas have limited access VA services.

I am, however, encouraged to see the commitments within the Government system is increasing in support of the Victim Assistance and disability related Programmes at national and local levels. I would like to highlight some of the main achievements related to Victim Assistance and Disability Affairs since the Third Review Conference

- An Inter-ministerial committee has been formed to discuss and coordinate at very high level the affairs related to disability and victim assistance. This committee has 50 members and observers from various related government ministries and non-governmental organizations under chairmanship of H.E. Chief Executive.
- A 10-year national strategy on Victim Assistance and Disability affairs, 2019 – 2028, is finalized and is pending approval by the National Disability Committee. This strategy guides and mainstreams the activities related to Victim Assistance and Disability at country level.

- A central database is established for the affairs related to victims and persons with disability. The database is being utilized for registration of victims and persons with disabilities and recording their needs and priorities.
- Biometric registration process of 350,000 heirs of martyrs and war victims is going on. By completion of the registration process, there will be a better understanding of the needs and requirements of war victims and it will help in better planning and priority setting of victim assistance and disability related activities.
- A concept paper on job creation for victims and persons with disability has already been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, based on which at least 3 percent of Government ministries and departments' organization structure have to include victims and persons with disabilities.
- Ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs has also developed a concept paper for making all Government premises and public infrastructures such as schools, hospitals and public service buildings accessible for persons with disability
- In 2020 the Ministry of Martyrs and Disability Affairs will implement the one shop stop (single window management) for registration process of Heirs of Martyrs and person with disability.
- A National Disability Federation are being established that will serve as a forum for better coordination and harmonization of victim assistance and disability affairs at local, national and international levels.

In conclusion, on behalf of MMD and people with disability in Afghanistan, I am grateful to the US government and other donors who have generously supported victims and person with disability in Afghanistan.

Thank you

On behalf of Mr. Laludin Aryobi

State Minister for Martyrs and Disability Affairs