

Fourth Review Conference

Oslo

25 – 29 November 2019

Somalia's Statement delivered by Mr. Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle , Director General Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA)

Agenda Item 7 (d) Victim Assistance

Thank you, Excellency, the President of the Fourth Review Conference for giving Somalia the opportunity to share with you and the distinguished delegates brief updates on victim assistance efforts that my country made since the last Review Conference in Maputo in 2014.

In October, 2018, The Federal Republic of Somalia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities.

From September to December 2018 Somali government in collaboration with UNMAS –Somalia programme conducted Victim Assistance situational analyzes in the federal member states and in Mogadishu in order to get a better understanding of the situation of mine victims, including their needs, the challenges they face and opportunities to assist them.

Based on the result of the VA analyzes Somali government with the technical support from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Mine Ban Convention initiated an inclusive process for the development of a nationwide Victim Assistance and Disability Action Plan. We held a national workshop in Mogadishu and four consultation events with government and civil society actors in federal states and Banadir Region.

Participation and inclusion of landmine survivors and persons with disabilities is at the core of our work in Somalia. It's also a priority of myself as the new Director General of Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) to ensure the full participation of landmine survivors and persons with disabilities in developing the national action plan and all other relevant efforts we undertaken.

Mr President, I am happy to report today that in the occasion of the fourth review conference here in Oslo we launch a preliminary version of the our nationwide and inclusive action plan. Taking this opportunity, I wish to invite everyone interested to our side event tomorrow (in room "Frognerparken"). At the side event you will be provided with comprehensive information on situation of victim assistance and our plans for the coming years. Soon after the Oslo Review Conference, we will finalise and adopt the plan.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express our thanks to all partners of Somalia, whether they support us through the UNMAS, mine action operators, the ISU and others. Somalia looks forward to your continued cooperation and assistance in the years to come.

Mr. President allow me to reaffirm Somalia's strong commitment and support for the Oslo Action Plan and the Political Commitments. We look forward for its adoption this week and to commence implementing it soon.

Mr. President, despite the efforts been made so far, Somalia is facing VA funding challenges both at a national level and from the Donors and we could not reach the goals for supporting the Landmine victims, survivors, and general disability assistance unless the international community and donor states realises this goal.

Thank you all.