

TAJIKISTAN

Revised

### **Director speech for VA**

Mr. President, Tajikistan is one of the States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention and as one of the 29 States Parties (VA29) having declared a 'significant' number of mine victims/ survivors has obligation to provide Victim Assistance in the country.

Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines and explosive remnants of war is 872 landmine/ERW victims (523 survivors, 349 fatalities); in 2019 2 civilian persons (men) killed by landmines and ERW. Approx 30% of mine survivors were children at the time of their accidents

Since the Maputo Review Conference Tajikistan had **following great achievements** which we would like to share with you:

- On 22 March, 2018, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. And Tajikistan has become the signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The **International Disability Forum** was recently hosted by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan with the support of WHO and many other partners, including the United Nations and several of its entities, other international organizations, development partners and international non-governmental organizations (on 18 October 2019). The Deputy Prime Minister, the

Minister of Health and dignitaries of other relevant ministries, committees and agencies attended this event alongside representatives originally from twenty countries and several international organizations participated in the conference. Overall, about 150 people attended this important event.

They also used this opportunity to review the **National Program on Rehabilitation Persons with Disabilities for 2017-2020**, as well as the status of implementation of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Tajikistan** and the progress made towards its ratification.

The participants discussed disability sector priorities for the next 10 years in line with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals and ensured high-level commitment of leadership and staff from different ministries, committees and agencies on disability issues in Tajikistan.

Starting from the beginning of the TMAP, VA was in the Centre of all developed strategies and **Mine Action Plans of Actions**

- All Mine Action Strategic documents developed so far also included VA component.
- Presently, we are guided by the National Strategy of the RT on humanitarian MA for 2017-2020 approved by the Government of RT.
- The Law of RT on humanitarian mine action was approved and signed by the parliament and the President of RT in July 2016.

- A separate article in the MA Law is devoted to Victim Assistance **programme** – article 12
- The Tajikistan national Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2020) was approved by the Government of RT in October 2016

Every year TNMAC regularly (at quarterly basis) organizes TWG on VA with participation of representatives of the RCST, local authorities, departments of social protection and landmine survivors.

TNMAC is also providing different support and assistance to landmine survivors and families of those killed by landmines:

- facilitating and providing referral for getting medical care;
- facilitating physical rehabilitation through capacity building of National Ortho Center staff;
- providing psychological support through organizing summer rehabilitation camps and provision of first psychological aid
- Landmine survivors with limb amputations continue to be provided by free prosthesis and orthosis in National Orthopaedic Center (NOC).
- Cooperation with INGO “Polus Center” was continued to provide capacity building training for prosthesis and orthosis technicians of NOC (2017-2018).

**In the framework of South-South cooperation:** We are proud by our cooperation with the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR): field trips and site visits

for participants from the region was organized for participants of Mine Action Managers Course in 2018. Thus, colleagues from the region were able to learn from Tajikistan VA experience.

Dear colleagues, VA continues to be one of the main priorities in Mine Action in Tajikistan and we are providing relevant support for Mine/ERW victims such as emergency and on-going medical care, psycho-social rehabilitation, opportunities for development, improved livelihoods and social inclusion support throughout their lives. The rights of Landmine Survivors and other Persons with Disabilities in accordance with Tajik legislation and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are considered at all level and they should not be discriminated in any place. We made significant progress in VA and will try our best to fulfill all our obligations in accordance with Ottawa Convention and Maputo Action Plan.

However, implementing of VA projects highly depends on funding. Lack of funds to implement disability related activities remain a most significant challenge.

In the end, on behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to thank all our donors and partners (US DOS, UNDP, ICRC and GICHD) for their great contribution to VA and Land release related activities in Tajikistan.

Lastly I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Tajikistan to ensure the well-being of Tajik survivors injured by mines and ERW to our work forward to achieve the best possible Quality of Life for landmine survivors and other PWD!