

**ZIMBABWE'S STATEMENT ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AT THE
FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE
BAN CONVENTION
OSLO/NORWAY, 25 – 29 NOVEMBER 2019**

Thank you

Mr President, distinguished delegates

It gives me great pleasure to address this esteemed conference to share Zimbabwe's progress in articulating the rights and needs of landmine victims as stipulated in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of, Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, has the mandate to protect, promote and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of all Persons with Disabilities in Zimbabwe. As such, victim assistance falls under the overall social protection programmes targeted towards Persons with Disabilities. A separate directorate, the Department of Disability Affairs was recently created in this Ministry to handle disability issues. Its creation is a major milestone in disability service provision as it will allow for the smooth and concrete implementation of Victim Assistance programmes.

Since becoming a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Zimbabwe has demonstrated its commitment to respecting and upholding the rights of Mine Victims through collaborative efforts of Disabled Persons Organizations, key government ministries, United Nations agencies and international development partners. Although challenges and obstacles remain, Zimbabwe has made significant progress and achievements in crafting enabling legislation responsive to the developmental needs of all Persons with Disabilities including mine victims.

As a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Zimbabwe continues to utilize the Convention as the analytical framework for implementing Victim Assistance. Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution has comprehensive provisions for disability inclusion which allows for equal opportunities and disability mainstreaming in all spheres of life. It is through these legislative instruments that most policies to address the rights of Persons with Disabilities are designed.

Currently, Zimbabwe is in the process of finalizing the drafting a National Disability policy document to inform and address the rights of Persons with Disabilities. Consultative meetings on the policy draft will be held in most parts of the country's ten Provinces that include areas mostly affected by landmines. Most landmine victims are located near border posts in the South-Eastern, North- Eastern and Northern parts of the country.

Although there is a significant number mine victims in Zimbabwe, the country is still in the process of establishing a national data base for all landmine victims. throughout the country's (10) Provinces. This database will be essential in order to cover each landmine victim. This data base will improve efficiency and ease of delivering services specific to landmine victims.

Some of the services accessed by mine victims include,

- Purchasing of Assistive Technologies
- Payment of medical fees
- Implementation of Harmonised Social Cash transfers
- Food mitigation programmes
- Provision of educational assistance to all children of school going age
- Provision of vocational training fees
- Loans under a revolving loan fund facility

The implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a continuous process. We remain cognizant of the fact that much more still needs to be done in order to attain the highest level of participation and service provision for landmine victims. We particularly appreciate the opportunity this Conference offers through the exchange of experiences and best practices. Finally we support the proposal by Mozambique.

Thank you