



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration

14th Meeting of States Parties

Geneva

30 Nov – 4 Dec 2015

*Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased to present my government achievements and progress regarding the victim assistance obligations under the MBT and other relevant conventions and meanwhile highlighting some of the major challenges on VA and disability issues we face to, despite having challenges and constraints in 2014 in Afghanistan we made significant achievements as:

Advocacy efforts and discussion going on to ratify the Marrakesh **Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled** in by the government.

The Afghanistan's Civil Aviation Authority ACAA developed and approved the Air Line Ticket Discount Procedure for Persons with Disabilities based on the obligation of the Law on the Rights and Benefits of Persons with Disabilities

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) with the support from World Bank has commenced renovation of the Martyrs and Disability Affairs Compound to make it in line with accessibility standards.

Although the Victim Assistance and Disability related programs continues to receive lower funds compared to other sectors in Afghanistan, the United Nations Mine Action Center for Afghanistan UNMACA has received financial support from USAID to implement the 3rd phase of the Afghanistan Civilian Assistance Program. The overall goal of ACAP III, which has commenced in mid-2015, is to mitigate the short-term and long-term impacts of the conflicts on civilians, including victims of mines and Explosive Remnants of War. The ACAP III scope includes targeted immediate assistance, strengthening existing services, and contributing to the development of Afghan government capabilities to meet the needs of civilian victims of conflict in Afghanistan. The specific activities being implemented under ACAP III are, physical rehabilitation services, psychosocial support to the victims, economic reintegration support and capacity building support to the line Ministries engaged in VA in Afghanistan.

By the formation of the National Unity Government the MoLSAMD had new minister and meanwhile Ms. Jamila Afghani, who is with disability appointed as new Deputy Minister for Martyrs and Disability Affairs of MoLSAMD, and there is an ongoing discussion for establishing new Independent disability directorate within the government structure and expected this body to be approved by the government in near future.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) and UNMACA conducted Capacity Development Workshop for MoE staff on ACAP III for 117 Child Protection Officers of all provinces and staff of inclusive education directorate *to provide relevant staff of MoE with ACAP III concept with focus on Advocacy and Awareness and role of MoE in raising awareness.*

The Ministry of Public Health trained 120 Health staff in Laghman and Bamyán provinces on physical rehabilitation, disability and CRPD,

Despite the achievements afore-mentioned, nowadays, the VA/ Disability organizations in Afghanistan facing critical funding challenges, it is a very concerning issue where during these years such capacity and institutions developed but due to the shortage of funds we are about to lose these capacity and strengthen,

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the generous donors that have supported the victim assistance and disability activities in Afghanistan, improving the lives of mine and ERW victims and other persons with disabilities

Thank you.