Implementation of the victim assistance provisions of the CCM in existing coordination mechanisms

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has formed the Council of persons with disabilities on the state level. The council is comprised of the representatives of disability organizations and state government, and representatives of the entity ministries. The role of the council is to monitor the process of the legislation in BiH in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), application of the adopted entity strategies, and to provide assistance on the same purpose. Beside this, the council will be working on the challenges and problems which are encountered by survivors of the cluster munitions on a daily basis, and to integrate those problems in the legislation through its work.

2. Counselling body of Ministry of Civil Affairs is BiH demining agency (BH MAC). Within the BH MAC, Coordination board has been formed, comprised of representatives of entity and state government and representatives of disability organizations. The board provides assistance to the victims of mines and cluster munitions and collect information about assistance and its implementation to the survivors in BiH.

3. The informal team of experts as been formed in the area of disability on the state level. The members of this team are representatives of disability organizations with a various types of disability and who are also survivors of the cluster munitions. The role of this team is to monitor the actual situation in the area of disability in BiH, to monitor implementation of ratified international documents such as CRPD and adjustment of BiH legislation with these documents related to issues in the area of disability. In this way, survivors are directly involved in a disability movement in BiH.

4. The intention of the state to include survivors in the existing coordination mechanisms has been recognized already. We wouldn’t be here otherwise. But, it is necessary to find the ways to further encourage the lower levels of the government to take responsibility of including the survivors in the mainstream of their local communities. This means better implementation of existing legislation.