THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN UGANDA AT THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS IN GENEVA 16TH – 19TH APRIL 2012

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Your Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Republic of Uganda, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to provide an update on the implementation of the Victim Assistance programme.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the lead agency in the implementation of the victim assistance programme.

However, it is important to note that implementation requires a multi-sectoral approach since the concerns of the victims have to be addressed by different line Ministries and Civil Society Organisations. The policy of Public Private Partnership is important for effective delivery of services to the victims. To achieve this, the Government of Uganda established a National Intersectoral Committee on Disability. This committee which meets on quarterly basis brings together different line Ministries such as Health, Education and Sports, Works and Transport, Agriculture, Animal Industry, Gender, Labour and Social Development and representatives of Civil Society Organisations. The Committee is coordinated and chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

This coordination committee helps the agencies to share experiences, avoid duplication of effort and harmonise the implementation strategies.

The Intersectoral Committee helps the stakeholders to maximize resource utilization through joint planning, monitoring and evaluation. The areas of medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support are well handled. Social and economic reintegration as well as reliable and relevant data collection is harmonized since all stakeholders utilize a tool which they agreed upon.

Ladies and gentlemen, in order to achieve this objective the Ministry of Gender,
Labour and Social Development developed a Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance 2010-2014. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the plan is periodically conducted to ensure that activities have tangible impact on the quality of life of the survivors and other persons with Disabilities. For this reason, the plan contains clear, measurable objectives, indicators and targets against which results are measured. These have been developed according to the thematic areas.

After reintegration of the survivors in the community, poverty has been identified as a key concern among the survivors and other persons with disabilities. As a result two key programmes were launched. First, a countrywide special grant programme was launched to assist the survivors and other persons with disabilities to start income generating projects. The grant is also intended to help the beneficiaries to acquire employable skills.

Secondly, the Government has also launched the Expanding Social Protection Programme which has a component of a disability grant to cover the chronically poor persons with disabilities among other vulnerable groups in the country. This five year pilot programme is supported by DFID, Irish Aid, UNICEF and the Government of Uganda.

Although these achievements have been made, there are challenges such as updating the data for effective planning and budgeting. Inadequate funding is also still a challenge. I would therefore like to call upon development partners to support the Government initiatives to meet the needs of the survivors and other persons with disabilities. It is through such concerted effort that the challenges faced by survivors and other persons with disabilities will be overcome.

Thank you for listening.