Distinguished Co Chair

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me firstly to thank you for the opportunity to address this Intersessional Meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Albania has adopted a broad integrated victim assistance strategy with the goal of building a sustainable Albanian capability for victim assistance and the wider disability sector.

Data and detailed statistics are available on the casualties from mines, cluster munitions and Abandoned Unexploded Ordnance from the civil uprising in 1997 in Albania. The data are disaggregated by age and gender, recorded in the IMSMA database and regularly shared with the relevant institutions and agencies. The law for the protection of personal data and other sensitive information is in force in Albania.

The victim assistance Programme in Albania is comprised of several components: emergency and ongoing medical care; physical rehabilitation and provision of prosthesis; psycho-social assistance, socio-economic inclusion; and awareness raising for the rights of mines, cluster munitions and abandoned unexploded ordnances survivors and other people with disabilities.

In Albania, emergency, ongoing health care and the rehabilitation capacities are improved especially in the previously mine/cluster munitions contaminations areas. Therefore those services are available to man, women, boys and girls.

Initiatives on the ground are undertaken to support directly the injured people and in parallel strengthening the existing capacities of the health structures at both local and national level.

Later at this session, Albania will provide in more details on the development of the national and local capacities on medical and physical rehabilitation in close cooperation with donors and civil society organizations.
Regarding the areas of the socio-economic inclusion 15 survivors or their family members are in process to complete by end July 2012 the vocational training courses and will be assisted with small financial assistance to start up their small businesses.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although there is good progress and achievements to date, Albania still faces challenges in addressing the needs and rights of the survivors and other persons with disabilities. I would like to call on our development partners to continue their support to our efforts so we can further improve the lives of the people who are suffering the negative consequences.

In particular, we are facing difficulties in securing enough raw materials and components for the production of new and major repairs of prostheses at the Kukes Prosthetic Workshop. The regional hospital is covering all the running costs and also has provided some financial resources to purchase the local materials and as a matter of fact this amount is increased by government on yearly bases, but again this amount cannot cover all needs.

Allow me at the end of my update, to express once again our gratitude to our partners, such as: Alb-AID, UNDP, ITF, HI and GICHD.

At the end, I would like to thank our loyal donors; the US State Department, European Commission, DfID, the Government of France, Austria, ICRC, and the Albania private sector, for their generous support which contributes to make a difference in people’s lives.

I thank you for your attention!