

THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITION

Oslo, 11-14 September 2012

Mine Victims

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to address you on behalf of the Demining Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like to give you brief overview about cluster munitions victims in B&H.

As from year 1992 until 2012, we have identified 231 cluster munitions victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most of these casualties were killed or injured during the period of war, but also some of them in the recent period. Out of this number 43 persons were killed, while 188 persons were injured. Out of total number of the victims, 77 are female. Legal and social assistance for cluster munitions victims is the same as for mine victims. All persons with disabilities achieve their rights based on national or entity laws.

Approach to disability issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being intensively coordinated with approach adopted in European Union countries and the best practice from those countries has been used. In the end of 2010, Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted Decision on forming Council for Persons with Disabilities in B&H.

Based on this document, the Strategy on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was adopted and it is in accordance with European Action Plan for persons with disabilities. This document contains directions and principles of action based on human rights in all major aspects of life of this population.

In order to improve rights and social status of mine victims and cluster munitions victims, both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked on updating and adoption of new legal regulations, as well as opening of new centres for physical rehabilitation in its own communities.

Speaking about the employment issue, Bosnia and Herzegovina allocates funds every year through its ministries and other relevant authorities to support employment of persons with disabilities. In both entities in B&H we have Laws on Professional Rehabilitation. Based on that, Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of persons with disabilities was founded. These funds open up opportunities for economic and social integration of this population, as well as stimulation of employers to employ persons with disabilities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has basic data on cluster munitions victims. It is necessary to update the database on cluster munitions victims with field data which will contain detailed information that is now missing: date of incident, location, information on education, occupation, employment and family members of the victim, and if applicable, aid received. This database would be useful for government and nongovernment sector and it would enable easier monitoring of rehabilitation process and cluster munitions victims reintegration. Collecting field data has not been finalized yet. We are working together with the NGO sector on the ground in order to find solution for this issue.

Thank you for your attention!