

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me on behalf of the Albanian Government to congratulate the organizers for the excellent arrangements to the 5 MSP of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Albania has the full data on casualties from cluster munitions, Anti personnel mines, ERW and abandoned unexploded ordnance. As to date, there are at least 990 abandoned explosive ordnance casualties (149 killed and 841 injured) recorded all over Albania. Last incident is late July 2014 - a hand grenade exploded involving a child.

Medical and Physical rehabilitation services are available to men, women, boys and girls and are provided to all survivors and other amputees regardless the cause.

Furthermore, aiming to improve the rehabilitation capacities for the UXO survivors, several equipment, raw materials and components for the repairs and the production of prostheses and orthoses are handed over to the Prosthetic Workshop in Kukes Regional Hospital with funding from the Government of Austria.

The prosthetic workshop in Kukes Regional Hospital has provided repairs and new prostheses for at least 80 amputees.

Activities are ongoing to provide assistance for the rehabilitation and social-economic reintegration of explosive remnants of war survivors and their family member.

A "Needs Assessment of Social-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania" supported by the Austrian Government for 6 regions, and from US Department of State through International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security for another two regions has been completed.

The focus of the assessment was reviewing the status of the survivors, identifying their specific needs and drafting due recommendations for assistance to the Government.

Albania has shown the strong commitment and willing to create a safe place for our people but also to fulfil our obligations under the Convention. For this we are still optimistic and count on your help so together we can accomplish our noble mission.

Thank you for your attention.