

*Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased to present the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan regarding the victim assistance obligations under the article 5 of the CCM which is related to the victim Assistance:

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) started the complete amendment process of Law on the Rights and Benefits of Persons with Disabilities to meet the international human rights obligations and, to address the problems on its practical implementation.

The MoLSAMD with support from the Afghanistan Civilian Assistance Programs (ACAP III) / United Nations Mine Action Service conducted the institutional capacity building needs assessment of the Martyrs and Disability Function of MoLSAMD which is followed by recommended capacity building action plan.

The MoLSAMD with support from the World Bank, have started to renovate the premises of the Martyrs and Disability Affairs in order to make it in line with accessibility standards; the project is expected to complete by the end of 2016.

Advocacy efforts and discussion going on to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty in order to Facilitate Access to Published Works for the Persons with Visual impairments.

The National Unity Government of Afghanistan is planning to conduct the National Conference on Persons with disabilities in Afghanistan with participation of high level government officials and representatives of all categories of persons with disabilities from all around the country. The conference is aimed to discuss the mutual role and responsibilities of government and persons with disabilities in the development of the country.

Despite the achievements afore-mentioned, the victim assistance/ disability sector is also facing with funding shortfall challenge as like any other sector in Afghanistan. During these last years the sector have well developed and with support from international community, these organizations could reach the vulnerable groups including people with disabilities and provide

them with needed assistance. While with limited funds, fears are there to lose the current capacity which took them long to be built.

I would like to give thanks to the generous donors that have supported the victim assistance and disability activities in Afghanistan, improving the lives of mine and ERW victims and other persons with disabilities

Thank you.