



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**Intercessional Meeting of Convention on CCM**

**Victim Assistance**

15- 18 April 2013

***Excellencies,***

***Distinguished colleagues,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends of CCM,***

As you are aware Afghanistan is one of the most effected mine landed country, and as a result of decades of conflict, most of Afghan population have suffered from this hidden Enemy.

I am honoured to present the progress and challenges of the Government of Afghanistan towards the Victim Assistance and national disability programmes.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled as government disability/VA focal points along with other key ministries such as: Ministries of Public Health and Education along with national and international disability stakeholders have continued to provide services and support to persons with disabilities including the victims of landmines, ERW and Cluster Munitions in the country in an inclusive and effective manner.

Afghanistan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on September 2012, and both CRPD and Convention on Cluster Munitions were published in volume 1052 of the official gazette of the Ministry of Justice.

Beside ratification of the three conventions since 2010, at national level Afghanistan enforced the Law on the Rights and Benefits of Disabled Persons on 2010. At the moment comparative analysis between the disability law and CRPD is under discussion to bring it in line with CRPD principles

In terms of concrete achievements, we have made great strides in inclusive education to support the educational rights of children with disabilities.

Last year the Ministry of Education trained 1200 school teachers, 1800 children with disabilities and their parents on inclusive education which seeks to fulfill the rights of all learners to quality education.

The Ministry of Public Health has also approved a Disability and Physical Rehabilitation Strategy to further professionalize and prioritize disability and rehabilitation programs within the ministry. This strategy, the first of its kind, will seek to improve social inclusion of persons with disabilities, enhance provision of early treatment to children with severe disabilities and increase prevention measures that target avoidable causes of disability, among other goals.

The MoLSAMD trained 145 staff of Martyrs and Disability Affairs section and stakeholders on database, CBR guidelines, administration, communication, project management and disability rights and raised awareness on disability and VA through various media channels in the country.

Currently the government of Afghanistan and disability stakeholders is developing the Afghanistan National Policy for Persons with Disabilities. It is drafted and shared for wider consultation with government and non government agencies

and organizations of persons with disabilities, the policy then to be followed up with the revised Afghanistan National Disability Action Plan (ANDAP), the policy and action plan will meet all the national and international VA and disability rights obligations of Afghanistan.

While there is tangible progress on the ground in particular the ratification of conventions and legal support, there are still significant challenges in funding, capacity, sustainability, Monitoring and evaluation to overcome. Our caseload is large – due in part to the significant number of victims – and physical infrastructure is limited. We also need to bolster our methods of monitoring and evaluating existing services. And, lastly, we need to do more to ensure that those with disability have real rights. In the coming years, we will strive to achieve our obligations towards and improve the lives of all Afghans with disability. We hope that you will support us in this effort.

**Thank you.**