

**Statement of Albania on Victim Assistance to the Intersessional
Meeting to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

27-30 June 2011, Geneva

Distinguished Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to participate and thank you for giving Albania the possibility to speak today on Victim Assistance at Standing Committee meeting to the CCM.

An area of 2.1 million m² has been identified as contaminated with Cluster Munitions in Albania, and directly impacted at least 13 villages.

From 1999 to date, 44 people have been injured and 9 have been killed by cluster munitions in my country. Albania has collected all the data on the injured persons and those data are available and are disaggregated by age and gender. The data are shared with stakeholders and this is helping us in analyzing and prioritizing the needs for the injured people.

The coordination mechanism is in place with composition and participation of line ministries and focal points for the victim assistance.

National Victim Assistance plan has been developed involving line ministries, local health authorities, donors and other actors and organizations involved in victim assistance. Survivors and other persons with disabilities and their representative organizations contributed by their active participation to the inputs of the national planning for victim assistance.

In Albania, emergency, ongoing health care and the rehabilitation capacities are improved especially in the previously 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.

In the area of the socio-economic inclusion, Specific projects have been implemented in support to socio-economic reintegration of the injured people from the Cluster munitions.

Although there are progresses to date, Albania has identified gaps in addressing the needs and rights of the survivors and other persons with disabilities.

In the mean time, I will use this opportunity to appeal to the international community for their much needed support to fully address the needs of the survivors and other people with disabilities and fulfilling the aims of Vientiane Action Plan.

The Vientiane Action Plan will guide us in our future work and will do utmost to improve the services and meet the needs of the cluster munitions survivors and other people with disabilities.

Certainly, none of our achievements would have been possible without the commitment of our donors and therefore we would like to convey our sincere thanking to the European Union, the Governments of United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Denmark, Canada, Czech Republic, Sweden, France, Norway, Austria and Turkey for their steady support during all these years.

Thank you for listening.