



**Intervention by Sulieman Ghnemat, on behalf of Raising the Voice Participants  
Landmine Survivors Network  
Wednesday, June 23, 2004  
Meetings of Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Integration of the  
Mine Ban Treaty**

*Social and Economic Reintegration*

Madam Co-chairs, Mr. co-chair, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am Sulieman Ghnemat, a landmine victim and still survivor. I would like to make this presentation about social and economic integration in the name of Raising the Voices. Under article 6.3 of the Mine Ban Treaty, social and economic reintegration has many components, but our intervention is limited to four.

*The Right to Work*

According to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and rule 6 of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities, States should not discriminate against persons with disabilities in the context of employment opportunities. Employment is also a key principle in the Draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. States must take appropriate measures to ensure that this right is fulfilled, including accessibility in the workplace and anti-discrimination legislation, as well as awareness raising in society about the capacity of landmine survivors to participate actively in the work force. Implementation of this right also requires that survivors receive appropriate rehabilitation and vocational training to equip them for equal participation in a competitive environment. To achieve such integration in the work force and hence ensure governments comply with their international obligations, it is crucial that the private sector is also regulated.

*Policy Making and Planning*

States must consult with, and include the active involvement of landmine survivors and their organizations in the development of policies and legislation in relevant areas to ensure that survivor rights are properly considered. Once again, we refer you to the UN Standard Rules, specifically, rule 14, which urges States to take disability into consideration in all relevant policy-making and national planning. States must also, as required by Rule 16, include disability matters in the regular budgets of all national, regional and local government bodies.

*Formation of Associations for Landmine Survivors*

To help facilitate proper consultation, the rule 18 of UN Standard Rules urges States to encourage and support economically the establishment of organizations of persons with disabilities to help ensure that integration happens in fact, and not just on paper. Again, we refer you to the Draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has consultation as a key principle.

*Technical and Economic Cooperation*

Our final point is that all countries must try to improve the living situation of landmine survivors through economic cooperation and technological exchange. Priority areas for such cooperation should include the development of human resources through the development of skills, abilities and potentials of landmine survivors, and the initiation of employment-generating activities. Again, in this context, States should be encouraged to support the formation and strengthening of organizations for landmine survivors.

Thank you for your kind attention.