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12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the APMB Convention  
Geneva, 3-7 December 2012

**THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

Statement on Assisting Mine Victim Survivors

Thank you Mr. President.

Since this is the first time that my Delegation is taking the floor, I wanted to congratulate you on the assumption of your function.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to timely implement all the obligations of the Convention. The majority of the obligations we are still implementing. Serbia is the part of all relevant international instrument in this regard, including the convention of protection of disabled persons. Serbia ratified this convention in 2009, as well as adopted strategy of the implementation of the obligations under the Convention of the protection of disabled persons.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy is the relevant governmental authority of the Republic of Serbia in charge of protection, rights and financial support to civilian invalids of war, family members of civilian invalids of war and family members of civilian victims of war.

The Law on the Rights of Civilian Invalids of War entered into force in 1996 by which the rights are regulated as follows:

- Disability living allowance
- Supplement for care and aid by another person
- Orthopaedic allowance
- Health care and financial allowance related to health care implementation
- Free and privileged transport
- Allowance for food and accommodation during travel and stay in another place upon invitation of relevant authorities
- Monthly financial allowance
- Funeral expenses payment

Civilian invalids of war have been classified in accordance with the degree of physical disability. Since 2009, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy has been developing the database that **comprises** all categories of disabled persons including war veterans. Since there is unique but common database, the exact

number of anti-personnel mine victim survivors in the Republic of Serbia hasn't been established.

All anti-personnel mine victim survivors in the Republic of Serbia are covered by the system of health care on different levels:

- Emergency medical care,
- Treatment,
- Physical therapy and rehabilitation,
- Supplying with prosthetic and orthotic aid.

We continue intensive process of improving accessibility and availability of all services through eliminating physical, social, cultural, economic, political and other barriers. We need to raise the level of information system for landmine survivors. For this purpose, support and cooperation with GOs and NGOs would have great importance for us.

According to the recommendations of the Cartagena Action plan, we have made endeavors and begun work on action plan for providing help to mine victims that would include representatives of government sector (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy), non-governmental organizations and representatives of mine victims associations.

Raising awareness of the rights and available services to the mine victims is a dynamic and ongoing process that is being improved. The Republic of Serbia has suffered from the economic transition period therefore we need additional international funds for project implementation that would improve the quality of life of mine survivors.

Long term regional cooperation is moving forward. We would be happy to learn lessons and share experiences from countries with positive developments in this field.

I would like to underscore that all the victims enjoy full respect of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and equal basis with others. It also includes the full respect gender equality regarding to the rights and different types of the supports of the victims.

Thank you.