



**17th Meeting of State Parties
to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva 26-30 November 2018
Statement on Mine Victim Assistance**

Madam chair,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, it is my pleasure to be here today representing my country Somalia. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Switzerland as well as ISU for hosting the 17th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

As many of you know, Somalia is committed to uproot landmines and explosive remnants of war and to assist the victims and survivors of these deadly weapons.

In respond to Maputo Action Plan, Somali Government recently signed CRPD on 2nd October 2018, followed by passing the disability agency bill in November 2018 by the Somali Federal parliament. This will pave the way for protecting the rights of persons with disability including explosive hazard survivors.

In collaboration with UNMAS Somalia Programme, Somali Government has recently started Victim Assistance Situational Analysis and visited some of the affected communities in the country namely Garowe in Puntland State and Baidoa in South-West State. Other Federal Member States will be visited in the coming days. The initial report indicates an urgent need for assisting the explosive hazard victims within the framework of disability assistance programme.

Last month there were 4 landmine and ERW accident in Galmadug, resulting into the deaths and injuries of civilians. The available mine action capacity in Somalia is very limited due to insufficient international funding support.

Madam president, in closing I would like to highly appreciate all those who have assisted us in providing victim assistance services in Somalia. We thank ICBL, ICRC, HI and UNMAS for their efforts.