

Thank you your Royal Highness,

In achieving the overall goal of the Mine Ban Convention, alleviating mine victim suffering, aiding socio-economic reintegration and enhancing local and regional mine action capacity are crucial elements to be taken into consideration.

Our meeting is taking place at a time when we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the adoption and signature of the Mine Ban Convention. After ten years, we have much to be proud of, yet we cannot afford to be complacent. In the words of the Convention, we have demonstrated our determination to ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines that kill or maim innocent and defenceless men, women and children. We have illustrated our wish to do our utmost in providing assistance for the care and rehabilitation, as well as for the social and economic reintegration of mine victims.

I would like to give a short overview of actions taken in Turkey, in the field of mine victim assistance.

Civilians, including mine casualties, can receive treatment at military hospitals. The procedures outlining how civilians can apply for treatment or for rehabilitation can be found on the websites of the

Gülhane Military Medical Academy (GATA) and the Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation and Care Centre.

In addition to rehabilitation services provided in military centers, the "Orthopaedics and Traumatology Center" (OTC) which operates within the Department of Surgical Medical Sciences of the Faculty of Medicine of the Dicle University, provides rehabilitation to patients, including mine victims. The OTC is a competent center with a capacity of 1.500 general surgical treatment per year. The average capacity for prosthetic services is around 70-100 per year.

I would like to mention that between 7-11 May 2007 a NATO Advanced Research Workshop was organized at the Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation and Care Centre. This event entitled "Train the Trainers of the Amputee Players" was an occasion to bring participants from eighteen countries together.

The main objective of the workshop was to train professionals dealing ^{in particular,} with victims of terrorist acts and enabling them to assist victims in regaining confidence and thus re-integrating into the society.

I thank you, *No. President.*