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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
GENEVA

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
17th Meeting of States Parties
Geneva, 26-30 November 2018**

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

Thank you Madam President,

It is of paramount importance that the Convention provides a solid framework for action, seeking both to end existing suffering and to prevent future suffering.

Albania strongly condemns the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. We already have completed the clearance obligations of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and is a mine-free state.

Albania

We remain engaged to implement the Maputo Action Plan in the context of the international cooperation. Therefore, Albania has sent a demining unit in Mali, operating in the framework of the European Union Mission there.

Also in line with Maputo Action Plan regarding the victim assistance we have aimed that the victim assistance to be integrated into broader national strategies and policies related to the rights of persons with disabilities, as far as health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction are concerned.

As a result, regarding the victim assistance capacities and programs, all victim assistance stakeholders have widely been involved, both at local and national level. It is worthy mentioning that these are harmonized with the other national strategies and policies for the persons with disabilities in the country.

The detailed data are recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database and regularly shared with the relevant stakeholders.

The Albanian institution in charge is the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. In close cooperation with all stakeholders and donors, it is working to improve the emergency and ongoing health care, the rehabilitation capacities and socio-economic empowerment of victims and their family members, both at local and national level.

In this context, an assessment of Socio-Economic and Medical needs of marginalized Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims in Albania, has been completed.

In terms of physical rehabilitation, the focus has been in providing new prostheses to the persons suffering amputees. At the same time, special attention has been paid into the area of the economic empowerment of the survivors and their family members who have already completed different vocational training courses.

I thank you Madam President.