

Video Transcript of 18MSP Opening Remarks

Luz Dary Landazury, Survivors Association Leader, Mine Risk Educator, Colombia

My name is Luz Dary Landazury and I want to tell you about my work as a mine risk educator and the vital importance of risk education in heavily mine affected areas, such as the Pacific coast of Nariño in Colombia where I live and work. If these types of activities are not carried out, the casualty rate would be even greater than currently registered.

One of the most significant achievements of my work has been to train teachers to conduct mine risk education (MRE) in schools to prevent children from suffering injury or being killed by these devices. Another important achievement has been the creation survivor associations, crucial to disseminating information by carrying out workshops in their respective communities, to prevent others from experiencing the trauma that each of us survivors has lived through.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, survivors have experienced particular hardships. They have not been able to access health services including medical and rehabilitation appointments due to the various barriers the pandemic has raised.

As a woman, as an Afro-Colombian and as a landmine survivor, I invite the States Parties to continue in their support for survivors' rights and to ensure access to those rights.

Thank you.