

Dear Chair, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the Government of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our donors and partners: US Department of State, OSCE, NPA, UN agencies and ICRC for their contribution to Victim Assistance and disability related activities in Tajikistan and present our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Victim Assistance!

Let me inform you on our latest achievements which have been made in line with Actions 33 to 41 of the Oslo Action Plan in order to ensure the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are taken into account:

- In 2022, the Committee of Architecture and Construction developed "Strategy for development of the construction sector of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030" with separate chapter devoted to the Accessible environment for persons with disabilities (now it is submitted to the Government for approval) and up-dated national standards for Hotels, Preschool institutions and Territory Development.

- Tajikistan is making all efforts to mainstream gender and diverse needs in affected communities during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all VA related projects. Our current National Strategy for Humanitarian Mine Action for 2021-2030 is inclusive of gender, age and disability. During implementation of VA projects we always include women and girls, men and boys and takes diverse needs into account.

- To achieve multi-sectoral efforts, Victim Assistance Technical Working Group includes relevant stakeholders from different sectors. The latest meeting of Working Group in Dushanbe on 1 November 2022 gathered 29 participants (20 man and 9 women): representatives of the relevant ministries, UN agencies, ICRC, NPA, FSD, Tajikistan Red Crescent Society and public organizations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

- Tajikistan has aligned its victim assistance efforts with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). In 2022, meetings of the CRPD Working Group were held in several regional and district centers to discuss the progress made by Tajikistan towards ratification of the CRPD.

- In 2022, Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Equality and Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination, which has disability provisions, was adopted by the resolution of the Parliament of RT (dated June 22, 2022 No. 773). The working group (WG) established by the order of the Minister of Justice (September 2, 2021, No. 68) is reviewing 12 current laws with regard to disability issues.

- Following approval of Parliament of RT, experienced specialists from persons with disabilities were already appointed to the position of advisor on disability issues in some local governments, the process is on-going.

- Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) is maintaining a centralized database IMSMA Core and is sharing information with relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to address the diverse needs of mine victims. Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines/ERW is 887: 537 survivors and 350 fatalities. This year two survivors were registered: one shepherd was seriously injured by UXO in Dashtijum village, Sh. Shohin district (on 2 April) and other is 14 old years' boy, from Vakhan village, Ishkoshim district who was seriously injured by UXO and lost his hand (on 14 August). Both were immediately provided by the emergency medical response, are receiving on-going medical services as well as psychological support (Action 36).

- **Improved participation** (Action 41): Landmine survivors and their representative organizations, namely public organization “Taqdir” and “Society of Landmine Survivors” always take active part in all matters that affect them. In 2022, TWG meetings conducted in the regional centers gathered 118 participants (80 men, 38 women) including 29 survivors. Survivors participated in discussions of the VA annual work plans and reports and as usual participated in the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action organized this year in Garm.

- During 10 months of 2022 - 13 survivors were provided by free services and obtained 14 prostheses (1 woman, 12 men) in the National Orthopedic Centre in Dushanbe and its satellites (in 2 regional centers – Khujand and Dushanbe cities). “Mobile orthopedic service” continue to serve up to 10 persons per month, it become very important when survivors are not able come to the capital. Khorog satellite (in GBAO) was renovated and will be completely equipped and ready by the end of 2022 (with Japan Government and ICRC support).

- This year, 33 landmine/ERW survivors (4 women and 29 men) from remote mine-affected districts received rest, rehabilitation and improved general health in two sanatoriums for the veterans of war and labour situated in Varzob and Vahdat districts. This project became possible due to TNMAC cooperation with the Ministry of health and social protection of population (MoHSPP). The workshops programme included art therapy and sessions on Victim Assistance, Rights of Persons with Disabilities and progress in achieving Oslo Action Plan.

- Starting from 1 October 2022 seven survivors (3 women and 4 men), members of PO "Taqdir" were enrolled into three-month professional massage training course conducted by the State Institution "Tibbi khalki" run by the MoHSPP with NPA support. This pilot project is designed to give survivors who become blind the opportunity to be engaged in decent job and by this ensure their social and economic inclusion and finally improve their psycho-social well-being.

But despite of all our efforts, landmine survivors and victims' families still remain one of the most vulnerable group in the country. The main priorities for assistance in the implementation of our State's victim assistance obligations are improving economic condition and psychological well-being of landmine survivors, strengthening technical capacity of the National Orthopedic Centre, increasing capacity of organizations of landmine survivors and CRPD ratification by our country. Tajikistan is in need of financial and technical support in order to fulfill VA obligations contained in the Oslo Action Plan.

Using this opportunity, we again express our gratitude to our donors and appeal for their continuous support to Tajikistan VA Programme.

Thank you very much for your attention!