



**Intersessional Meeting of the States Parties to the
Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 19-21 June 2023**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia
on SEMA Statement on Victim Assistance
Presented by Abdulkadir Ibrahim (VA Representative, SEMA)**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking H.E. Ambassador, **Thomas Göbel**, Ambassador of the Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, Italy, and Uganda, as well the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of APMBC for organizing this crucial meeting in the margins of the Intersessional Meeting for the state Parties. It is a great privilege to represent the Government of Somalia in this meeting to shade light on matters related to victim assistance in Somalia.

As you may have heard, the National Security Forces in Somalia has been carrying out military operations in two States namely (Galmudug and Hirshabelle) and planning to progress to another two (Southwest and Jubaland). The recurring armed conflict in Somalia for over the past three decades has obviously affected the life of the civilian population negatively, ultimately causing loss of lives and sustaining lifelong injuries.

Explosive ordnance, including IEDs are still causing an unprecedented number of casualties amongst the civilians. Since the last MSP meeting in (November 2022 to June 2023) 300 civilian casualties have been affected as a result of IED incidents, of which 92 civilian fatalities and 208 civilians injured that accounted for over 30% of all IED-related casualties recorded across Somalia. Despite the significance of the impact, there is minimal intervention on Victim Assistance to these days. Over the same period, (November 2022 to June 2023), certain mines and ERW accidents were also reported affecting 19 civilians

across the regions. Sadly, 58% of the victims were children. Compared to the public suffrage, the victim assistance pillar has been underfunded and there is no significant assistance provided to the victims.

The current situation in Somalia was aggravated by massive displacements due to hybrid factors including extensive drought, seasonal flooding due to climate change, insecurity among other factors, making the Humanitarian situation more complex and undermine victim assistance response as a national priority as well as in the humanitarian response.

It was on 9th June 2023, just a few days ago, received the unfortunate incident report that injured 53 and killed 27 of which children between 10-15 years. They were playing football in the area when they came across the ERW.

Somalia is among the group of 30 States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention who have reported responsibility for a significant number of survivors of explosive ordnance. The Government has prioritized to establish a comprehensive information on the number and situation of persons with disability in Somalia, the Government, through the recently formed National Disability Agency (NDA) has been carrying out data collection across the five federal member states and Banadir regional administration. Questions related to the impacts of explosive ordnance have also been incorporated into the data collection tool. The survey report is expected to reflect the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men. Upon completion of the survey, a more accurate number of persons with disability can be reported during the upcoming Review Conference in 2024.

The Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) continues to cooperate with the mine action operators and other government institutions-, to ensure landmine survivors are not left behind in government policies, frameworks, and in the plans to meet the wider disability needs in the country.

In coordination with all mine action partners, SEMA Information Management continues recording the mine victims and accidents into the consolidated national mine action database. The Program will avail the data for any partner willing to implement projects on

victim assistance. Partners are also making efforts on recording age/gender disaggregated data related to IED casualties.

The Government budget is overstretched with other national priority of priorities. Thus, to meet the convention's obligation and national responsibility, Somalia still seeks financial assistance from the generous partners and donors of Somalia, to address the needs of persons with disabilities including those survived from explosive ordnance. Resource mobilisation remains our top priority for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Victims and Disability Assistance, which was launched last year, in April 2022.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the organizers once again, and to appreciate you all for your meaningful participation.

I Thank You.