

**Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention**

**The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine Free World**

**25-29 November 2024-Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia**

**on SEMA Statement on Victim Assistance**

**Presented by Abdulkadir Ibrahim Mohamed (VA Representative, SEMA)**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the fifth review conference in the historic city of Siem-reap. I also extend my appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) for their efforts in organizing this important meeting.

The instability in Somalia, driven by decades of conflict among various warring factions, continues to profoundly impact the lives of civilians, resulting in the tragic loss of lives and leaving many with lifelong injuries. Somalia is currently at a critical juncture, transitioning its security architecture from the outgoing African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to the new African Union Somalia Mission (AUSSOM), which is expected to deploy forces effective at the start of the New Year.

Explosive ordnance, including IEDs are still causing an unprecedented number of casualties amongst the civilian populations. Since the last 21MSP meeting in (November 2023 to November 2024) 802 civilian casualties have been affected as a result of IED incidents, of which 179 civilian fatalities and 623 civilians injured that accounted for over 57% of all IED-related casualties recorded across Somalia. Over the same period, (November 2023 to November 2024), certain ERW accidents were also reported affecting 30 civilians across the regions. Sadly, 70% of the victims were children. Compared to the public suffrage, there is minimal intervention on Victim Assistance dominantly due to limited funding situation to the pillar.

Over the past five years of the Action Plan, Somalia is one of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention who has been reporting significant number of survivors of explosive ordnance. Within this period, the Government of Somalia has formed the National Disability Agency (NDA) to coordinate the implementation of

the CRPD following its approval by the government in 2018. Recently (July 2024), the House of the People (Lower House) approved the National Disability Rights Protection Bill with a decisive majority of 135 votes in favor. In response, NDA has prepared a five-year work plan (2024-2028) which is aligned to the upcoming National Transformation Plan (2025-2029). Some articles of the Bill require 5% inclusion of PwD into the job opportunities.

As mentioned in the last MSP meeting, NDA conducted a survey on the “Perception and Priorities of the Persons with Disability (PwD) in Somalia” which assessed the level of stigmatization and discrimination of the PwD in Somalia, gathering data from 1,653 PwD, both male (54%) and female (44%) respondents. The result shows a significant rate of discrimination towards PwD, and dire needs for assistive devices, healthcare, education, food, shelter, and financial support. However, implementation to address the needs are yet to commence due to funding issues.

The Somalia Explosive Management Authority (SEMA) continues to cooperate with the National Disability Agency, a national entity authorized to oversee and coordinate the interventions linked to persons with disability, 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 and sharing the victims of explosive hazards 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 is yet to pass the Mine Action Bill which the national capacity needs support during this critical transition period to sustain the ownership and effective coordination capability during the implementation of the National Action Plan on Victims and Disability Assistance. Thus, to meet this, Somalia still seeks financial assistance from the generous partners and donors of Somalia. Considering the current global situation, resource mobilization will remain our top priority advocating for the implementation of the upcoming five-year Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAP).

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

**I Thank You.**