

Distinguished President, Committee members and Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to present the activities of the Serbian Mine Action Centre in the field of victim assistance, as well as our contribution to establishing sustainable support mechanisms through multisectoral cooperation.

In the line with Action 31 Siem-Reap Angkor Plan, in December 2024, the Serbian Mine Action Centre signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, which acts as the national focal point for the victim assistance. This document represents a key institutional framework that enabled deeper involvement of the Centre in providing support to victims of EO.

The Agreement will contribute to better coordination between sectors, facilitate access to victims, improve information exchange, and increase the visibility of the projects we are implementing. Therefore, we have created a foundation for sustainable cooperation and will further strengthen our role within national and international efforts aimed at rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and the inclusion of affected individuals.

One of the concrete results of our work in victim assistance is the implementation of an international project through ITF and supported by donor funds of the Republic of Korea. Within this project, some EO victims from Serbia were referred for rehabilitation at the University Rehabilitation Institute Soča in Slovenia. The rehabilitation, which also included the replacement of orthopedic aids, was evaluated by beneficiaries as extremely beneficial both medically and psychosocially. In 2025, we plan to continue this program and include new beneficiaries.

In parallel, the Centre has applied for several international projects aiming to secure additional funding for capacity building. One of the key planned initiatives is equipping facilities dedicated to mine victims within our Innovation-Educational Park. These offices will serve as a place for education, experience exchange, and activities focused on social integration and empowerment of survivors.

Our vision is to ensure a sustainable support model through cooperation with relevant institutions and international partners, based on the principles of equality, accessibility, and respect for human rights.

We remain open to further partnerships and exchange of experiences to jointly improve the quality of victim assistance of EO.

Thank you for your attention.