

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Statement to the Meeting of the Standing Committee on the
Victim Assistance Efforts.

Delivered by

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(Check against delivery)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity offered to me again to highlight to this assembly, the progress made by Rwanda on Victim assistance efforts.

I would like to inform you that the Rwandan Government has adopted in its new constitution, special laws emphasizing special treatment to persons with disabilities. They are now represented in the National parliament and in other decision making organs. The article 76 of the new national constitution provides for a permanent seat of an elected member of the disabled community.

The Ministry of Health is fully responsible for medical care of people with disabilities including Mine victims. Four hospitals namely; the University Hospital of Kigali, the General Military Hospital, the Gatagara Center for Handicapped and one local NGO produce crutches and artificial limbs. It should be noted, however, that the existing orthopedic workshops need more support especially through training of physiotherapists and technicians.

The Ministry that has social affairs in its attributions contributes in the socio-economic reintegration of disabled. This is to mention that the Government policy to support people with disability does not exclude mine victims; they are instead integrated in the general programme aimed at assisting all citizens with disabilities.

Co-Chairs, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, despite all the above mentioned achievements on victim assistance efforts, we are still far from perfection. A lot needs to be done, and this requires inputs which the government can not should alone. I therefore, on behalf of my Government, call upon all well wishers to make their contribution to that humanitarian action.

Thank you for your attention.