

**Intersessional Meeting of the States Parties to  
the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, 18-20 June 2024.**

**Statement of the Federal Republic of  
Somalia on SEMA Statement on Victim  
Assistance**

**Presented by Dahir Abdirahman Abdulle -**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the organizers of this important event as well the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of APMBC for organizing this crucial 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 be aware of the situation, armed conflict has been recurring in Somalia for over the past three decades which has significantly affected the life of the civilian population, ultimately caused loss of lives, and sustained lifelong injuries. The Somali government and national defense forces, supported by international forces, continued operations to expel the anti-government elements from known strongholds in the Federal States of Somalia. Considering the newly recovered areas contaminated with ERW and use of improvised explosive devices, the civilian population including those returning from displacement are at-risk of encountering explosive ordnance left behind by the armed conflict.

The explosive ordnance, including IEDs are still causing an unprecedented number of casualties amongst the civilians. Over the past 12-month period, 570 civilians have been killed or injured as a result of IED incidents. Over the same period, legacy explosive ordnance accidents also affected 64 civilians across the regions. Sadly, **90%** of the victims were children. Despite the significance of the impact, there is minimal intervention on Victim Assistance and this pillar has still been left behind underfunded with limited or no capability to assist the victims in Somalia.

The current security situation in Somalia was aggravated by massive displacements due to multiple factors including flooding, armed conflict 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.

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 National Disability Agency (NDA), which was established in 2021 with a mandate to implement the CRPD in Somalia, spearheaded a study to understand the perceptions and priorities of persons with disabilities across a range of sectors, in line with Somalia's recently adopted interim poverty reduction strategy, the ninth National Development Plan 2020-2024 (NDP9).

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 action plans to meet the wider disability needs in the country.

In coordination with all mine action partners, SEMA Information Management concluded recording the mine victims and accidents into the consolidated national mine action database. Despite limited progress, partners are also exerting efforts on recording age/gender disaggregated data related to IED civilian casualties. The Program will avail the data for any partner willing to implement projects on victim assistance.

SEMA continues to advocate for support explosive ordnance victims and PwD as part of its advocacy strategy for mine action in Somalia in all possible multilateral forums and conferences promoting support for its implementation in compliance with the relevant international norms, notably the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (CRPD). Parallel to this, SEMA continues coordinating the reduction of explosive devices and delivery of risk education messages to enhance safe behaviors among vulnerable population. However, I believe we all agree that Victim Assistance seeks a long-term intervention which must continue far beyond the completion of clearance activities.

In conclusion, Somalia is grateful to participate in this very important Intersessional Meeting and provide progress update which is an opportunity for SEMA to share the real-time situation of Somalia. I would like to thank the organizers once again, and to appreciate you all for your meaningful participation.

**I Thank You.**