

Dear Chair, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

S1. On behalf of the Government of Tajikistan, I would like to thank our donors and partners: US Department of State, OSCE, UN agencies and ICRC for their contribution to Victim Assistance activities in Tajikistan! We also convey our deep gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit and the Committee on Victim Assistance!

S 2. Let me briefly present our latest achievements to ensure the different needs and perspectives of landmine survivors and victims' families are taken into account:

- Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC) is maintaining a centralized database IMSMA Core (Action 35) and is sharing information with relevant stakeholders upon their request to ensure a comprehensive response to address the diverse needs of mine victims. Since 1992 the total number of casualties resulting from accidents with mines/ERW is 890: 539 survivors and 351 fatalities. Due to successful EORE activities, no accidents happened this year.

S3. Landmine survivors and their representative organizations, always take active part in all matters that affect them (Action 41). In 2024, two VA TWG meetings conducted in the regional centers: Bokhtar and Khujand cities gathered 61 participants (40 men, 21 women) including 17 survivors. On 21 May, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine

Action was conducted in the Shamsiddin Shohin district with participation of five landmine survivors.

S 4. On 30 May, the Tajikistan Mine Action Programme (TMAP) Gender and Diversity Working Group (GDWG) was established to guide and support the integration of gender considerations into all aspects of the TMAP's policies and practices, provide technical expertise, strategic advice, and coordination on gender-related issues. The group will work to promote gender equality, empower women and ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into all MA initiatives and decision-making processes, including victim assistance.

- At present, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of population (MoHSPP) are working on the revision of the current Assistive Product List (APL) in the frame of the ATScale Project. On February 2024, 37 representatives from different stakeholder organizations and assistive technology experts proposed to add 22 new assistive products to the next version of the APL. The next step for the MoHSPP is drafting a new Assistive Product List and developing technical specifications for each product.

In 2024, state institutions and public organizations continue working tirelessly towards implementation of the "National action plan for the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". This year the first meeting of

this working group was organized in J. Balkhi district on 3 April, second took place in the Panj district on 15 May

During 5 months of 2024 – 18 survivors were provided by free services in the National Orthopedic Centre in Dushanbe and its satellites in the regional centers. In the result, 10 survivors obtained 10 prostheses (8 leg prosthesis, 2 hand prosthesis) and 1 survivor obtained 2 crutches; 7 survivors were provided by free repair of their assistive devices.

S 5. In this slide the main challenges in **Victim** Assistance are presented for your attention.

- 1.Lack of funding for implementation of Victim Assistance activities
- 2.Economic reintegration of survivors in Tajikistan (Action 39)
- 3.Physical rehabilitation services (Action 38)
- 4.Accessibility and removal of physical barriers

S 6.Until the end of this year, we are planning:

a) to organize three VA TWGs meetings in the regional centers and Dushanbe with participation of representatives of the relevant ministries, district departments of social protection of population, UN agencies, ICRC, NPA, FSD, Tajikistan Red Crescent Society and public organizations of persons with disabilities and landmine survivors.

b) With OSCE financial support, in August we will organize summer rehabilitation workshop for 40 landmine/ERW survivors in the recreation area of the National Bank located on the shores of the Kairakum water reservoir, so called “Tajik Sea”. The summer rehabilitation workshop will provide different Victim Assistance sessions, adaptive sport and psychological rehabilitation for participants through psychology and art therapy.

But, despite of all our efforts, Tajikistan still is in need of financial and technical support in order to fulfill Victim Assistance obligations contained in the Oslo Action Plan and towards new coming Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan (SRAAP). The main priorities remain economic condition and psychological well-being of landmine survivors, increasing capacity of organizations of landmine survivors and CRPD ratification by our country.

S 7. Using this opportunity, we again express our gratitude to our donors and appeal for their continuous support to Tajikistan Victim Assistance Programme.

Thank you very much for your attention!