

UNITED NATIONS



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Statement to the 3rd Review Conference on Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention;
Maputo Mozambique.

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you at this important Conference.

I would like to address the conference on the synergies between the Anti Personnel mine Ban Convention and the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities. I believe that to achieve the full inclusion of victims and survivors of landmines we must ensure that states parties to both treaties need commit to the full implementation of the articles contained in both treaties.

There are many opportunities to ensure that sustainable bridges are built through cooperation between the institutional mechanisms such as the implementation support unit and the Monitoring Committee on the

Convention on the Rights of People with disabilities. The Office of the Special Rapporteur on Disability can also provide support by sharing information and observations on progress with the implementation of support activities at country level.

One of the important indicators for the successful delivery of services and the respect for the fundamental human rights of survivors is the strength of the organisations of survivors and how states parties hear their voice.

It is important that States Parties encourage and support the development of strong organization that they are able to consult when implementing services such as health, education, employment, this leads to the empowerment of the survivors and ensures their dignity is respected.

It is also important that States Parties ensure that their development plans are inclusive of the needs of survivors and all persons with disabilities - and in the case where donors are involved in the national development plans they should ensure the inclusion of disability related programs. This can be done not only through disability specific programs but also through the inclusion of the needs of survivors in the ongoing health, education and

employment programs of states.

We aspire to a world where all the rights of people with disabilities are respected, that they are included in society and enjoy the same opportunities as every other citizen. To achieve this we need to greater cooperation between global institutions and stronger commitment from States Parties.

Thank you and I look forward to our future cooperation.