

UNMAS Director's Remarks at the WHS Special Session on
Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into Humanitarian Action
World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul

Monday 23 May, 4-5pm

Beyazit Hall (ICC)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globally, every day, more than ten people fall victim to landmines and other explosive remnants of war. And life is often profoundly difficult for survivors of landmines and other explosive hazards. Not only do they have to adapt to living with severe disabilities brought on by an extremely traumatic incident, they do this in a conflict or post-conflict setting, where rehabilitation services and support are often weak.

UNMAS is a voice for the girls, women, boys and men who are survivors of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, including improvised explosive devices. I ask you to join UNMAS to ensure that the human rights and the needs of mine and ERW victims are met, and that survivors are fully integrated as equal members of their societies. We must make tangible progress in providing the support and services they need and deserve.

In this regard, UNMAS continues to be inspired by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which represents an effective multilateral framework for addressing and enhancing the rights and needs of survivors in the long term.

Today, UNMAS endorses the Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities inclusion humanitarian action, and we will use it as a guidance and advocacy tool for our support to victim assistance efforts in humanitarian settings.

In addition, UNMAS is pleased to announce that the updated United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action has been completed with the assistance of several of the United Nations entities present today in this room. The revised policy reflects recent developments - such as the increasing impact of improvised explosive devices - and highlights the importance of sustained services and support to victims and their integration into broader national frameworks.

People living with disabilities in fragile, war-torn communities are at great risk of being left behind. And so, in this special session on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, we must not forget them.