



Meeleem present —

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The average casualty figure due to mine and ERW in Afghanistan, these days is around 40 people per month. Comparing this with the figure of 150 per month three years ago shows a big decline in the number of victims which is a big success and we are committed to lower this number to as few as possible.

The total number of survivors of the past three decades stands at approximately 60000 people. Considering the higher number of people surviving the mine and ERW incidents, results in an increased social and economic burden on families and society.

2

The progress of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan marked a significant acceleration in the rate of clearance in 2008 and 2009. From January to end of October this year over 45,000 anti personnel mines, 500 anti tank mines and one million ERW were destroyed by the MAPA. This resulted in the clearance of over forty two square kilometers of minefields and eighty eight square kilometers of battle area. Considering the fact that mine action is the pre-requisite for any major work to start in Afghanistan, we will continue to clear the mine fields and battle areas to save life and enable the country and the people to prosper.

Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance is another major part of our Programme. From January to end of October this year almost one million people both female and male received mine risk education. Also more than thirty five thousand people with disabilities benefited from Victim Assistance services, almost a

3

quarter of whom were female. We will continue to advocate for the rights of the victims of mines and ERW and will do our utmost to reach as many people as possible through our MRE sessions as possible.

The strategy for mine action in Afghanistan is based on the Afghan government's vision of a country free from landmines and ERW, where people and communities live in a safe environment conducive to national development, and where landmine and ERW survivors are fully integrated in the society and thus have their rights and needs recognized and fulfilled. To turn this vision into reality, the government is committed to the Ottawa Convention benchmarks and is following the mine action operations in close cooperation with UN and other major players on the ground.

4

The articles in the Anti-personnel mine Ban Treaty have ^{افغانی سر} facilitated us to carry out our task with other government entities and we are proud of our achievements from the destruction of all known stock piles of Anti personnel mines to the number of hazards cleared (and the number of people benefited from MRE/Victim assistance programmes. Our achievements of past years have been a great help to our people and to our country.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors for their generous support to the mine action programme in Afghanistan. We are committed to rid Afghanistan from mines and ERW and your support plays an important role in enabling us ~~to~~ We also fully support the to finish the job.

Cartagena action ~~plan~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~mine~~ ~~action~~ ~~programme~~
Plan & declaration ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~mine~~ ~~action~~ ~~programme~~