

**SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE AP MINE BAN CONVENTION
CARTAGENA SUMMIT ON A MINE FREE- WORLD**

**STATEMENT
BY**

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Madam President,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me firstly to express my pleasure to address on behalf of the Albanian delegation the Second Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention- Cartagena Summit on Mine Free World and provide some specific developments in the area of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) capacities in Albania, through the PMR Programme (Phase I & II).

Back in 2004 with the request of mine survivors and other disabled people, health and local authorities in Kukes mine affected region established a prosthetic center in Kukes Hospital, initially foreseen to do just repairs of the prostheses. In 2006, with the start of the PMR programme, the prosthetic workshop was relocated in the main building of the hospital, together with the Physiotherapy services. The government provided bigger space and financially supported its refurbishment. Due to the increase of the number of services provided by this Rehabilitation unit, the government added more staff to the hospital structure and who are receiving the required training.

Furthermore, another component of the PMR programme is building the capacities for prosthetic and orthotics in Albania. The training is ongoing for 6 prostheses/orthotic local technicians. They successfully completed the courses on lower limbs and the certificates are recognized by the Ministry of Education. Additionally, a fully trained Prosthetic Technologist in India through the ICRC as ISPO Cat II, returned to Albania, thus contributing to the technical and management capacities at the National Prosthetic Center in Tirana.

A full programme for training the physiotherapists is established at the Faculty of Nursing in Tirana. The first group of the physiotherapists that started the Faculty in 2006 have been graduated and since then, there are at least 30 students enrolled yearly at this Faculty. A physiotherapy cabinet is established at the Faculty of Nursing in Tirana in support of the training programme for the students.

Dear Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Albanian Government, I would like to use this occasion to express our gratitude to the donors of the victim assistance programme including; the US State Department, the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, EC, UNDP, ICRC, ITF Slovenia, HI and the Albanian sector.

Lastly, I would like to reaffirm once again the commitment of Albania to ensure the well-being of the Albanian citizens injured by mines and UXOs and for other people with disabilities.

Thank you for your attention.