



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT BY HON. SULAIMAN KYEBAKOZE MADADA AT THE
SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION**

DATE: 29TH NOVEMBER TO 4TH DECEMBER, 2009.

VENUE: CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

- *The President – Designate of the Summit*
- *The Co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance*
- *Distinguished Delegates*
- *Ladies and gentlemen*

Your Excellency, I wish to start by extending my sincere gratitude to you for providing me with an opportunity to present this Statement on the achievements made by the Government of Uganda in the implementation of victim assistance activities since the Nairobi Summit.

Uganda as one of the landmine affected states carried out consultations with landmine survivors and other stakeholders in the area of disability and came up with a Comprehensive Plan on Victim Assistance for the period 2008-2012. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance to all stakeholders involved in the implementation of activities for landmine survivors. The plan is based on the Nairobi Action Plan. The plan takes into account the principles of inclusion, participation, empowerment, multi-sectoral approach and victim assistance as development issue.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the lead agency in the implementation of activities on victim assistance. In collaboration with the office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports the following achievements have been made:

- i) A baseline survey was conducted in the landmine affected areas.
- ii) Landmine victims were identified, assessed and provided with artificial limbs and assistive devices.
- iii) A Management Information System has been established.

- iv) Assistive devices have been purchased and distributed to survivors.
- v) In collaboration with NGOs income generating activities for landmine survivors have been started.
- vi) A training Manual on psychosocial support has been developed and community based agencies have been trained to provide psychosocial services to landmine survivors.
- vii) Survivors have formed Associations through which support is extended to them.

In order to harmonise the implementation of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities, a coordination Mechanism was established in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. It brings together line Ministries and NGOs involved in implementing programmes on landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. This forum promotes experience sharing for performance improvement.

Although these achievements have been realized, the Government is still facing the challenge of limited funding to meet the needs of the survivors of landmines and other persons with disabilities. In this regard, Government will continue to advocate for increased funding by the Government of Uganda. Similarly, Government will continue to seek bilateral or multilateral partners for increased funding.

Finally let me take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Government of Australia, Austria and Ireland for the support through UNDP. It is through such concerted efforts that the needs of landmine survivors will be met.

Thank you for your attention.