

**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**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globally, every day, more than ten people fall victim to landmines and other explosive remnants of war. Life is too often profoundly difficult for survivors of landmines and other explosive hazards. Not only do they have to adapt to living with severe physical and psychological 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 inexistent.

UNMAS is a voice for those girls, women, boys and men who are survivors of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, including improvised explosive devices. I ask you to support 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. It is our legal and moral duty to deliver tangible progress in providing the support and services they need and deserve.

In this regard, UNMAS' work continues to be guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which represents an effective multilateral framework for addressing and enhancing the rights and needs of survivors in the long run.

Today, UNMAS is proud to endorse the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and UNMAS commits to using it as a guidance and advocacy tool for its victim assistance work in humanitarian settings.

Moreover, UNMAS is pleased today to announce that the updated United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action has been completed with the contributions of several United Nations entities present today in this room. The updated policy of the United Nations 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 only not forget them; we need to support their rights and promote their dignity.