

## **Annex 5 - Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

### **What is the purpose of the Convention?**

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

### **What is the essential nature of the Convention?**

The convention has 50 Articles, most of which are concerned with specific rights of people with disabilities, such as education, health, work, conditions of living, and participation in different aspects of life. Some issues of particular interest for victims of UXO include:

- The Convention is concerned with all types of disability suffered by peoples of all nations, races, colours and creeds, without exception
- It provides a very broad range of support to such people in exerting their rights
- The needs for people who have a mobility disorder are specifically recognised, with obligations on States Parties to provide affordable and accessible mobility assistive devices
- The need for early detection and prevention are stressed
- Professional skills to assist people with disabilities should be developed
- The provision of services close to the homes of people with disability is promoted
- States Parties are required to collect information about people with disabilities
- International cooperation is a vital ingredient, without prejudice to the obligations of host nations.

### **How does the Convention Work?**

The Convention confirms and secures all basic human rights on behalf of people with disabilities, and expects actions to be taken through all means to that end, but most especially through national legislation.

A national focal point or focal points must be identified for the implementation of the Convention

Nations will have an obligation to make regular reports on progress, the first within two years of coming into force, and thereafter every four years.

### **Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings?**

Yes, there is an obligation to hold a Conference within six months of coming into force, and that occurred on October 31st to November 3rd, 2008, in New York. Laos was not represented.

Thereafter, there will be a Conference every two years, unless the Conference decides on an alternative programme.

### **How is the Convention run?**

Internationally, a Committee of experts is established to have oversight of the working of the Convention: initially, the Committee comprises 12 member selected by election at the Conference. After 60 States have signed, the Committee is increased by 6 members. Committee members can serve for four years and can serve two terms.

The United Nations shall provide a secretariat to support the Committee.

### **What is the Timetable for the Convention?**

The Convention opened for signature on 30th March 2007 and Laos signed on 15th January 2008. Whilst the Convention entered into force on 12th May 2008, Laos is not fully and legally bound by its terms until it ratifies.

### **What needs to happen now?**

Signature of the Convention signals intent to ratify and, in order to do so, to pass national legislation which will have the force of implementing the Convention in the signatory country.