Statement of the Republic of Iraq in the meeting of Experts on PV – Victim Assistant

At the outset, I would like to thank the Chair of the meeting of experts on Protocol V for his efforts in organizing the work of this meeting.

Iraq has suffered from thousands of disabled victims of explosive remnants of war which were left from three decades of devastating wars, resulting in large ERW contaminated areas, and has led to the loss of people on whom thousands of families depend for their livelihoods.

Upon the completion of the liberation areas that was under the control of ISIS terrorist gangs, the Iraqi national authorities began to develop contingency plans to survey liberated areas through conducting field survey of victims in dangerous areas accompanied by raising awareness in those areas as well as the registration of victims of terrorist attacks. For instance In Fallujah and Haditha districts in Anbar province there was (6036) victims, and this information was entered in the IMSMA database for the purpose of information sharing with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the competent authorities to provide services to the victims to ensure their medical rehabilitation and reintegration into society, and We would like also to mention here to the psychological effects on the families that affected by ERW and those who have been subjected to incidents of killing their parents and the burning and destruction of their homes.

Iraq facing many challenges that stand in the way of victim assistant, the most important of which is:

1. lack of NGOs in the field of victim assistance and medical rehabilitation,
2. lack of financial resources to cover the increasing needs of those victims,
3. lack of logistical support in the field of artificial limbs represented in the provision of equipment, equipment and raw materials used in the manufacture of limbs to cope with the development in this area and the need to rehabilitate the centers of artificial limbs
4. the need to capacity building for the technical personnel working in the artificial limbs due to the increasing of the request for services for those centers, especially after the return of the displaced people to their areas, which require more rehabilitation services and medical care.
In this regard, Iraq has passed legislations to ensure the rights of People with disabilities and provide job opportunities commensurate with their abilities and identify their needs from artificial limps, medical and therapeutic assistance, physical training and psychological rehabilitation programs, income development projects and small capacity development projects and integrate them into society.

Iraq looks forward to the support of the international community to assist the victims of ERW in the field of artificial limps, medical aids and the raw materials and technical equipment to produce high-quality artificial limbs as well as enhancing capacities of the work of technical personnel working.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the European Union and donor countries for their continued support in the field of victim assistance. And here I would mention to “the National Dialogue Workshop for Victim Assistance” which was held in Baghdad- Iraq from 25 to 27 September 2018 with the financial support of the European Union, that discussed the preparation of a national plan for victim assistant in Iraq

Thank you