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**Fifth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects**  
Geneva, 9-10 November 2011

**Victim assistance: Viet Nam's experience**

Mr. President,

As this is the first time I take the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference and believe that under your stewardship, this Conference will arrive at successful outcome.

Mr. Presiden,

While still yet to become a full contracting party to the Protocol, my Delegation wishes to share the humanitarian concerns of the international community on the issue of ERW. We cannot afford to do otherwise, since Viet Nam is among the countries most affected by ERW. According to a preliminary survey conducted in 2002, 88% of all communes are affected, with the total contaminated area amounts to 21.12% of land area of the whole country.

According to nonconclusive data, there have been over 100,000 people killed or maimed due to bombs and mines, who were the main labour of their family. Many surviving victims have aquired permanent disabilities, who will face tremendous difficulties in their lives, especially children and young people.

As the risk is present in almost all regions, the task of addressing the need for clearance, emergency service and victim assistance is integrated into the policies, programmes and every day activities of local govenments.

To step up the coordination for better efficiency, on 21 April 2010, the Prime Minister approved the National Plan of Action 2010-2025 for addressing the consequences of mines and bombs after the war. This is a two-phase plan with the following outcomes:

- From 2010 – 2015: nationwide comtamination mapping; development of national technical standards; establishment of Data Centre; accident prevention education; victim assistance, resettlement support.
- From 2016-2025: continuance of mine clearance, education and support projects.

A clear division of labour among relevant government agencies is also provided for, while the Ministry of National Defence is in charge of clearance activities, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA in short) is responsible for victim assistance and reintegration.

Following the approval of the Plan, a State Steering Committee was set up on 22 December 2010, headed by the Prime Minister himself with 02 Vice Chairpersons – the Minister of National Defence and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

On 22 April 2011 the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs issued a Decision on the implementation of MOLISA tasks under the Plan. In the first phase of the Plan (2010-2015), MOLISA plans to accomplish the following:

1. Study, survey and develop standards for victim assistance, especially victims reintegration.
2. Develop and implement a Project “Reintegration assistance for mine/bomb victims”
3. Develop a system of social services for victims
4. Strengthen international cooperation on victim assistance.

Mr. President,

Current funding for mines and bombs clearance and victim assistance comes mainly from the State’s budget.

We are not alone in our efforts, the international community’s assistance has played an important role, such as that of the United States, Japan, Australia, ICRC, UNICEF, etc. Non-governmental organisations have been very active in helping alleviate the life of many ERW victims. Viet Nam highly appreciates all the support and assistance it has received and calls on the international community to step up its assistance in both clearance and victims assistance.

Thank you for your attention.