

**Statement on Victim Assistance
at the Meeting of Experts of States Parties to Protocol V
of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

Being a country that has gone through the devastating Great Patriotic War and has participated in numerous military operations, the Russian Federation has among its population victims of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Russia has the whole number of databases in the framework of which information about the number of this category of population, its level of pension security and measures of social support is accumulated. Namely, there is a federal roster of persons who have the right to state social security, and a database of retirement record. Since January 1, 2016 a federal roster of persons with disabilities will be put into operation.

There is no special law on social protection measures for ERW victims in Russia. Meanwhile there is a number of legislative acts on social protection of persons with disabilities and veterans, pension security organizations that provide assistance to the citizens who have been injured, contused or have become persons with disabilities due to ERW.

In particular, Article 15 of the Federal Law "On Veterans" envisages a long list of social protection measures for lifelong disabled persons injured or contused in combats during the Great Patriotic War. Besides, persons who have become disabled have the right to social protection stipulated by the Federal Law.

Persons with disabilities are provided free rehabilitation facilities and prosthetic and orthopedic appliances included in the federal roster.

Article 3 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation prohibits employment discrimination against persons with disabilities. An employer cannot refuse to hire a disabled person on grounds not related to special competence requirements and

professional aptitude of the candidate. An unmotivated refusal to signing a labor contract with a person with disabilities can be appealed in court.

In 2012-2013 there were some positive effects of promotion of disabled persons' employment. If in 2009 with assistance of employment agencies 27.6% of persons with disabilities were employed, in 2012 this number reached 36.3% and in 2013 – 39.7%. The positive results of career guidance in 2013 in comparison with 2009 changed from 52% to 65%.

After Russia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities specific measures aimed at employing persons with disabilities and at the same time encouraging employees to provide special equipment in working areas were taken at the open labor market.

Since 2011 with the participation of 75 constituent entities of the Russian Federation a state program “Accessible Environment” aimed at creating a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities has been implemented.

In recent years particular attention has been paid to the Chechen Republic. In particular, a program “Mine Threat” has been elaborated; it envisages collecting data about the needs of persons injured by mines and ERW in order to organize events related to social and economic reintegration of this category of population.