Mr. President, distinguished members of the panel,

We wish to join all participants in congratulating those, whose dedication and efforts have made the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities possible.

In addition to the statement and questions by the European Union, which we fully support, we would like to seize this opportunity to draw attention to the important linkages between the CRPD and other international instruments.

The question of human rights of persons with disabilities plays a prominent role in the framework of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines, which requires States in a position to do so to provide assistance to landmine victims, as spelled out in Article 6 para. 3 of the Convention.

At the 2004 Nairobi Summit, the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention identified the inherent link between assisting victims of landmines and human rights.

We therefore hope that possible synergies between the Ottawa Convention and the CRPD will be considered more closely in the future.

Thank you.

We believe that regular exchanges and enhanced cooperation between the "Ottawa framework" and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities would thus be fruitful for both frameworks. Examples in particular learned and best practices developed in the context of victims assistance may be of guidance and importance in implementing the CRPD new Convention.