

Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meetings
Agenda 2(b): Matters related to the mandate of the Committee on Victim
Assistance
25 June 2015, Geneva

Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to commend you, Mr. President, for your commitment and leadership. I also wish to thank Ambassador Elayne Whyte of Costa Rica for her stewardship in chairing the Committee on Victim Assistance.

Mr. President,

As just mentioned by the Chair of the Victim Assistance Committee, during 14-17 June 2015, Thailand, as a member of the Committee on Victim Assistance, together with the Implementation Support Unit organized the Bangkok Symposium on Landmine Victim Assistance: Enhancing a Comprehensive and Sustainable Mine Action, which was aimed at strengthening partnerships for achieving national ownership in landmine victim assistance and rehabilitation programmes in accordance with the Maputo Action Plan.

During the Symposium, participants stressed that political will and leadership at the highest level is essential in ensuring a holistic, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach, which integrates victim assistance into the work of all relevant agencies.

In so doing, the participants underlined the importance of strengthening capacity of relevant agencies and providing them with effective technical assistance at the local and national levels, while stressing that international cooperation and technical assistance, including south-south and triangular cooperation is of essence to assist States Parties to comply with their obligations.

Furthermore, the importance of a rights-based approach by viewing persons with disabilities as rights holders and governments as duty bearers was recognised.

Because of the reporting burden required of States Parties', participants also stressed the need to harmonize and simplify reporting of the implementation of the

States Parties' obligations under the various conventional weapons instruments. The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's initiative on reporting may help in this regard. In addition, the comprehensive nature of reporting under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities may provide overarching guidance to States Parties. Participants also noted that realizing the reporting ambition of the Maputo Action Plan means providing States Parties concerned with adequate support.

In this regard, Thailand welcomes the draft "Guide to Reporting" proposed by Belgium as an interesting solution for this problem. The examples of reporting contained therein will assist States Parties greatly when drafting their reports. We will elaborate further our thoughts on this in the upcoming agenda item.

Lastly, participants at the Bangkok Symposium recognized that mainstreaming victim assistance into the broader national disability and development policies is key to building bridges between the world of landmine survivors and the world of persons with disabilities in the broader context in order to promote these victims' full participation in the society on an equal basis.

Mr. President,

Thailand therefore believes that the work of the Committee on Victim Assistance and the Committee on the Enhancement of Co-operation and Assistance is closely linked. Both committees should consider assessing and analyzing information provided by States Parties that will help both Committees to identify possible needs of reporting States and match it with available international assistance from other States Parties.

In this regard, the thematic discussion on fostering partnerships tomorrow is very timely and we look forward to taking part actively in the discussion.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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