

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
(Belgium, Croatia, Ecuador and Mozambique)**

**Intersessional Meetings 7-8 June 2018**

**Observations of the Committee on the information submitted by Thailand**

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Thailand of its Article 7 report for the calendar year 2017 containing updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

**Mine casualties**

2. The Committee observed that Thailand provided an update on the number of new mine victims with five victims registered in 2017, all men that were injured, and that that the decrease in casualties (versus 9 in 2016) is the result of Mine Risk Education programs in raising awareness of landmines and promoting behavioural change through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities.

**Assessment of needs, the availability and gaps in services (Action #12)**

3. The Committee observed that Thailand reported assessing needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors in areas of medical care, social and economic inclusion, rehabilitation, psychological support, capacity building, awareness raising and laws and policies, and welcomes information on any assessments that were conducted in 2017 to identify gaps in mainstreaming and/or specialised services.

**Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)**

4. The Committee observed that Thailand is acting upon its commitments under Action 13, by outlining comprehensive objectives medical care, social and economic inclusion, rehabilitation, psychological support, capacity building, awareness raising and laws and policies and through developing or updating of the following plan of actions:
  - a. National Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2017 – 2021);
  - b. Strategic Plan on Empowerment of Women with Disabilities (2017 – 2021);
  - c. Provincial Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and;
  - d. Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities.
5. The Committee welcomes additional information on timeframes of the reported objectives and plans along with electronic copies of the action plans.

**Enhancement in the integration of victim assistance into broader frameworks, including allocation of budgets for their implementations (Actions #14)**

6. The Committee observed that Thailand was acting upon aspects of its commitments under Action 14, in areas of social and economic inclusion by amending the Regulation on Revenue Codes, approval of persons with disabilities who are registered for disability identification cards, as being eligible to receive disability allowance upon request and aiming for an integrated technology to enhance the level of services to persons with disabilities.

**Increase availability of and accessibility to rehabilitation services, economic inclusion opportunities and social protection measures for all mine victims, regardless of their gender and age (Action #15)**

7. The Committee observed that Thailand was implementing commitments outlined under Action 15, by increasing or maintaining targeted resources, through the followings:
  - a. Increasing monthly disability allowance from the rate of 14 USD to 27 USD;
  - b. Allocating budgets for personal assistants (1.44 million USD since 2011 to present), for housing modification (3.89 million USD since 2011 to present), for sign language interpreters (approximately 128,800 USD per year), and for assistive devices, tri-cycle (approximately 364,000 USD per year);
  - c. Putting measures in place to respond to emergency situation and casualties during mine clearance operations;
  - d. Promoting Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services for all persons with disabilities, including in 15 hospitals and four regions of the country;
  - e. Providing interest-free loans to individuals at an amount of up to 1,922 USD, and to groups at an amount of up to 3,840 USD for 5 years;
  - f. Providing aid and rehabilitation allowances at an amount of up to 96 USD, three times on an annual basis;
  - g. Providing psychological support to at least 500 persons with disabilities to increase their participation in community activities and also to change attitudes of people in the community, with 152 Community Learning Centres operating in 76 provinces of the country;
  - h. Advancing livelihoods of persons with disability through (1) vocational training program, welfare program, running disability services centres, having a comprehensive program on financial support in place to advance the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities, holding seminars and training on financial management and documentation;
  - i. Having 7,980 persons with disabilities employed in the government sector and 47,150 persons with disabilities employed in the private sector, and;
  - j. Allocating approximately 159 million USD for loans for self-employment of persons with disabilities and their caregivers, of which approximately 6.2 million USD allocated for the year 2018.
8. The Committee welcomes this update disaggregated by sex- and age and preferably with an indication of the number of people who benefited in the reporting period.

#### **Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)**

9. The Committee observed that Thailand reported on its strong commitment towards enhancing capacities and ensuring inclusion and active participation of mine victims and their representative organizations, by reporting:
  - k. Creation of a capacity building centre for persons with disabilities and service providers, allocating financial support equals to 17,333,841 USD in support of the work of disability stakeholders and making efforts for evaluation and follow-up of programs to ensure the quality of services provided to the persons with disabilities, and;
  - l. Continued supports provided by the general and provincial centres for persons with disabilities with the mandate to advance disability-related policies and services including coordination and collaborations among stakeholders, and between government and persons with disabilities.

#### **Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Actions #16)**

10. The Committee observed that Thailand reported on inclusion and participation of mine victims, including at decision-making level to design policies, plans and projects on disability issues, in

collaboration with non-governmental agencies including disabled people's organizations, supported by a number of policies and actions in place.

**Removing barriers and raising awareness (Actions #15 and #17)**

11. The Committee observed that Thailand reported awareness-raising activities among government agencies and private companies to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and expanding services to rural areas through community-based rehabilitation activities, and welcomes information on any efforts that led the removal of barriers, such as physical barriers.

**Measurable improvements, challenges, and priorities for assistance in advance of the next Review Conference (Action #18)**

12. The Committee observed that Thailand was acting upon aspects of requirements of Action 18, by reporting measurable improvements in its implementation mechanisms addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities including mine survivors, and would welcome additional information on remaining challenges and priorities in relation to achieving the Actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan, in the lead up to next year's Review Conference.