

**PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE
(Mozambique, Belgium, Chile and Italy)**

Intersessional Meetings 22-24 May 2019

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 2018 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 reported four casualties, all men and injured in 2018, versus five reported in the previous year. The Committee would welcome gender- and age-disaggregated information on all mine victims including mine survivors and affected families that have been registered so far in the country.

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

3. The Committee observed that Thailand did not provide an update on the assessment of the needs of mine victims or the availability and gaps in specialised and mainstream services and would welcome information on these matters.

Time-bound and measurable objectives (Action #13)

4. The Committee observed that Thailand did not provide an update on the implementation of action 13, however, in its previous years Thailand had reported the implementation of several frameworks that covered the needs and rights of mine victims. The Committee would welcome information on timeframes of the relevant objectives of existing frameworks.

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

5. The Committee observed that Thailand reported that victim assistance has been integrated into the programmes and policies of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and those of the Ministry of Public Health, while TMAC will continue to contribute as a coordinator to ensure the implementation of victim assistance through broader sectors and services in the country. The report also stated that when mine victims become disabled, their rights will be guaranteed by the application of the Person with Disability Empowerment Act.

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)

6. The Committee observed that Thailand reported efforts being carried out in 2018 which demonstrates implementing aspects of the action 15, as follows:
 - a. Although the victim assistance effort is being implemented largely by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and Ministry of Public Health, TMAC has contributed to victim assistance, in 2018, TMAC conducted follow-up trips to visit mine victims in HMAU 1 – 4, to conform with the policy of ‘leaving no one behind’ including in Sa Kaeo,

Chanthaburi, Trat, Surin, Sisaket, Buri, Chiang Mai and Utharadit provinces where follow up was made with a total of 38 victims. Physical rehabilitation, such as prostheses have been provided to mine victims. During the visit to HMAU 4 on 23 January 2018, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presented prosthesis to 19 mine victims with the cooperation from TMAC;

- b. On 12 December in the presence of Ambassador Hans Brattskar, the President of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention in Sa Kaeo province a number of mine victims were provided with care packages;
- c. House reparation and renovation, prosthesis replacement and new three-wheel bikes provided to the victims according to respective legal frameworks;
- d. According to a five-year Humanitarian Mine Action Plan – 2018-2023 of TMAC, with the 1669 hotline - a dispatch centre which acts as a network to coordinate with hospitals in time of medical emergency – in place, rapid medical care provided to casualties, including those caused by mines.

7. The Committee observed that it would welcome further gender- and age-disaggregated information on these efforts and on efforts that have been made in other areas of victim assistance in the country.

Strengthen local capacities and enhance coordination (Action #15)

8. The Committee observed that Thailand did not report progress on the implementation of action 15 in relation to enhancing local capacities and coordination and would welcome an update on these matters.

Inclusion and participation of mine victims (Action #16)

9. The Committee observed that Thailand did not report concerning inclusion and participation of mine victims in policies and programmes that affect them and would welcome information in this regard.

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

10. The Committee observed that Thailand did not report on the status of the implementation or progress on reducing barriers and raising awareness in support of mine victims in the country, and the Committee would welcome information on these two areas.

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

11. The Committee observed that Thailand stated that the country follows the aspiration of - *leaving no one behind* – with regards to assisting mine victims and that there are certain legal frameworks in place guaranteeing the rights of mine victims and enabling them to live equally with other people. The report, however, did not specify measurable improvements including in areas of psychological support and social and economic inclusion, remaining challenges or Thailand's victim assistance programme's priorities to achieve the objectives of actions 12 to 18 of the Maputo Action Plan.
12. The Committee encourages Thailand to increase efforts towards achieving the objectives of the Maputo Action Plan on victim assistance, particularly action 12 to 18, by the time of the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention in November 2019.