

Intervention by Thailand

Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention Friday, 24 June 2011

Co-chairs,
Distinguished Delegates,

As reported in the Standing Committee meeting in June last year, Thailand had retained a total of 3,626 mines for training in mine detection, clearance and destruction techniques in accordance with Article 3. At present, there remain 3,466 mines in our possession. The number of mines retained dropped significantly since, throughout the year 2010, the Royal Thai Army transferred a total of 200 retained mines for training as part of its capacity building programme for deminers. There were 40 mines previously not reported retained with the Royal Thai Police now categorized and under the mines retained category. Hence, we saw an absolute reduction of 160 mines from 2009 in 2010 as reported in our article 7 submissions. Inventories of mines retained will continue to be done so that our article 7 submissions accurately reflect mines in official possession.

The remaining 3,466 mines will be used for further training courses in the coming years as stated in the National Mine Action Strategy 2010-2014. This year, Thailand increased the number of deminers by 20 percent or from 32 to 40 deminers so that the country's mine clearance operation can be accelerated. Such training with the retained mines has helped the deminers not only to improve their mine detection and demining skills, but also develop precautionary safety measures.

Thailand will continue to report its undertakings on this issue as required by article 7 to ensure complete transparency in implementing the Convention.

Thank you.
