

Thailand's intervention on the linkage between international assistance  
and universalisation of the Convention  
In the meeting of the Standing Committee on the General Status and  
Operation of the Convention  
Geneva, 8 December 2000

On the issue of the universalisation of the Convention, which a very noble goal and we should do everything we can to realize this goal, my delegation believes that universalisation is not an end in itself. Operationalisation of the Convention is equally fundamental. In this regard, the provision on international cooperation and assistance, to us, as a developing mine-affected country, is a very significant part of the Convention, as many of us have said throughout this week that funding is important to make our efforts a concrete result on the ground.

From our view, international support can contribute to the universalisation effort in a sense that if countries with limited resources could see that States Parties in need of help are given enough assistance to be able to implement the Convention, it would be positively reflected in their consideration in joining the Convention. On the other hand, if they see that some of us have difficulties in complying with the obligations under the Convention, they might think that they could not honour the obligations and might be reluctant to come on board.

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