

**Intervention by H.E. Mr. Chaiyong satjipanon, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Thailand, on
Engaging the World Bank”
during the Meeting of the Standing Committee on General Status
and Operation of the Convention,
21 June 2004**

**Co-Chairs,
Colleagues,**

It is a pleasure for the Thai delegation to report on the work of the Resource Mobilization Task Force in which Thailand, Canada, Norway as well as other members and advisors have been working in cooperation to engage international and regional financial institutions to consider assisting mine action from the perspective of socio-economic development. Our first goal of engaging the World Bank has proceeded with some progress.

During the last Standing Committee Meeting, Thailand reported that Mr. James Wolfensohn, the President of the World Bank, responded positively to Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and assigned Mr. Ian Johnson, Vice President of the World Bank, to meet and discuss with the Task Force members and advisors on the issue of mine action and development. Ever since, substantive and logistic preparations have been made for this meeting. UNDP has come up with background and study papers on the World Bank's financing modalities and existing work related to mine action as well as the example of cost-benefit analysis on mine action and development. The papers are now available and under consideration by the Task Force members and advisors for further comments and suggestions. At the same time, Thailand has coordinated with the Office of the World Bank's Vice President and scheduled the meeting to be on 22 July. The Task Force members and advisors will also meet in due course before our discussion with the World Bank's Vice President. We believe that our meetings and discussions both among the taskforce members and with the World Bank will be fruitful and look forward to reporting what we will have achieved to all of you at the First Review Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Apart from the progress made by the Resource Mobilization Task Force, I am pleased to report to the Meeting of a positive step that Thailand has taken to engage more participation from the private sector.

Last week, the President of the Marshall Legacy Institute, a non-profit humanitarian organization based in the U.S. and the

Representatives of the Royal Dutch/Shell met with the Thai Foreign Minister to discuss about the possibility of forging closer cooperation between the Thai Government and the private sector in advancing mine clearance both in Thailand and in other mine-affected countries. The discussion provided an opportunity for Thailand to emphasize the significant role of the private sector as a contributor to the success of eradicating landmine problems. Thailand considers the supporting role of the private sector a valuable contribution. We therefore hope that this kind of cooperation will be enhanced and will contribute to the existing efforts we have been undertaking.