

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Chaiyong Satjipanon
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN
On General Status and Operation of the Convention
At the Meetings of the Standing Committee of the Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 8-12 May 2006**

Co-Chairs,

Friends and Colleagues,

In this connection, Thailand is pleased to learn that as of May this year, a total of 151 States have formally accepted to be bound by the Mine Ban Convention which means that approximately 80 per cent of all States worldwide are now legally bound by the provisions of the Convention. While we should be satisfied with the progress made, much more work remains to be done. Taken from another perspective, the above statistic essentially means that 20 per cent of all countries worldwide, or one in five, remain outside of this legal framework. Therefore, serious challenges lie ahead of us to effectively address existing obstacles to the universalisation of the Convention in accordance with the Nairobi Action Plan.

As far as Thailand is concerned, we consider that both dialogue and cooperation are essential factors for achieving universalisation of the Mine Ban Convention, both among States themselves and between States and other relevant entities. In February this year, as Chair of the Human Security Network (HSN) and host of the HSN Senior Officials' Meeting, Thailand organized a study trip for the Senior Officials of HSN Member countries and observer to visit the Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) to learn more about the activities being carried out by TMAC in Thailand as well as the implementation challenges. Although all 13 member countries and 1 observer of the HSN are currently Parties to the Mine Ban Convention, we believe that the trip provided participating countries with an opportunity to reflect on the issue of landmines as a continuing threat to human

security. At the same time, it underscored the importance of promoting adherence to the Mine Ban Convention as a means to protect human dignity and security.

Co-Chairs,

Friends and Colleagues,

Having stressed the significance of the universalisation of the Mine Ban Convention, it is clear that the latter is by no means an end in itself. While the Mine Ban Convention provides States with a comprehensive framework to address the issue concerning landmines, the effectiveness of the Convention relies on its prompt and effective implementation by States.

In concluding, Thailand wishes to express its appreciation to Canada for skillfully coordinating the work of the Universalisation Contact Group. Thailand also wishes to reiterate its commitment to work closely with all partners in accordance with Paragraph 18 of the Zagreb Progress Report so that we can move closer to our common goal of the universalisation of the Mine Ban Convention.

Thank you.
