

**Delegation of Thailand
Intervention on the Evaluation of Implementation Support Unit
10th Meeting of States Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 3 December 2010**

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to Ambassador Susan Eckey, in her previous capacity as President of the Second Review Conference, for establishing the ISU Task Force to look into one of the most important issues facing all States Parties of the Convention. I would also like to commend Ambassador Tim Caughley for his comprehensive report. We appreciate particularly his outreach to listen to the views of all parties concerned in preparing the final draft.

As always, the Thai delegation appreciates the competency, efficiency and dedication of the ISU staff and the effective manner in which the ISU has been managed by its Director, Mr. Kerry Brinkert, and his hard-working team.

Mr. President,

The Thai delegation wishes to offer the following comments with regards to the final report.

As a mine-affected State Party with a significant number of victims, and in view of our experience as a Co-Chair and Co-Rapporteur, Thailand greatly values both the support that the ISU provides to the Convention's machinery, as well as the assistance and advice it offers to individual States Parties on implementation matters. We see that the two issues are inextricably linked. Therefore, the advice that the ISU provides, especially in our case, on

mine clearance and victim assistance, is invaluable. In so doing, the ISU fills a niche role that cannot be played by others. We consider the ISU's efforts in these areas as part of its core service offerings.

Furthermore, while we recognize the important roles of the GICHD in hosting the ISU, we have observed, as a State Party, that the implementation process of the Convention has evolved greatly since 2001. It is therefore important that the States Parties should find ways and means to ensure the independence of the ISU so that it can be directly responsible to the States Parties, as recommended by the Task Force.

Mr. President,

Thailand agrees with the recommendations and the analysis of the final report of the Task Force, which we are ready to endorse. At the same time, we had hoped that the ISU would have become slightly larger after the evaluation than the current recommendation. In fact, the Task Force could have emphasized in its final report more on this point, which was repeated by many mine-affected States.

A larger structure of the ISU would have been more beneficial in the long-run and would have enabled the ISU to better fulfill its potential related to supporting affected States Parties. Many States Parties, including Thailand, still face challenges in fulfilling their obligations under the extended Article 5 deadline and in their assistance of mine victims. The ISU is therefore expected to step up its efforts in assisting these States Parties.

In this regard, Mr. President,

In 2011, it is unavoidable that the States Parties must take the matter of financing the ISU seriously in order to ensure the high

quality service we have enjoyed. Thailand is pleased to have been able to contribute this year to the ISU despite our budgetary difficulties. At the same time, we wish to encourage more contributions in the coming years from States Parties in a position to do so. We also support the idea of establishing an informal open-ended working group to continue the discussion as far as the objective of the group is to find a sustainable solution to adequately address the ISU's financing situation.

In closing, Thailand looks forward to working closely with Canada in our capacity as the next Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operations of the Convention in order to follow up on the recommendations of the Task Force in further strengthening the ISU.

I thank you, Mr. President.
