

Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand
during the Consideration of the General Status and Operation of the
Convention: Assisting the victims (Agenda 10 (a))
at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to Mine Ban Convention
Tuesday, 29 November 2011
(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Thailand has been consistently committed to provide assistance to landmine victims as well as to reinforce our effort and capacity in accordance with relevant actions in the Cartagena Action Plan. To cope with the multi-faceted nature of victim assistance, we place high emphasis on making our approach more holistic and integrated. All key elements, namely the emergency and continuing medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support, and social and economic inclusion, are incorporated into our Master Plan. Over the past year, as a result of the inter-sectoral coordinating mechanism on victim assistance, a wide range of victim assistance programmes and activities have been carried out both at national and local levels. Major developments are as follows:

First, on emergency and continuing medical care, Thailand has continuously developed a unified response plan tailor-made to the case of landmine accidents. The plan aims to guarantee that all necessary services provided by various authorities concerned, such as the Humanitarian Mine Action Units (HMAUs), local public health units, and local government agencies, will be in place in time of an accident and when medical attention is required. To prepare for rapid response, a series of inter-agency simulation exercises are regularly conducted in the mine-risk areas. Over the past year, the Emergency Medical Institute of Thailand (EMIT), in collaboration with the four HMAUs, has expanded a number of a landmine emergency response teams for better geographical coverage. Moreover, the Institute in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has also revised the content of our comprehensive manual for mine victims to cover not only recommendations in case of mine accidents, but also rights and benefits for

people with disabilities. The manuals are widely distributed to the people in mine affected areas, together with the promotion of the hotline number 1669.

Secondly, on physical rehabilitation and psychological support, Thailand focuses attention on ensuring that the mine survivors continuously receive benefits and services they are entitled to in a lifetime process of rehabilitation. Progress has been made to update a national database of landmine survivors along with active advocacy for the registration of landmine victims. We hope to utilize the database to solve a problems with accessibility by tracing whether the mine victim has received all services and assistance provided by the government under relevant Acts and Ministerial Regulations.

Another effort on physical rehabilitation is to provide sufficient and affordable prosthetic limbs to the victim. With a successful experience in this area, the National Protheses Foundation stands ready to provide assistance both by training and donating prosthetic limbs to others countries in need. In addition to cooperation with Lao PDR and Burundi, this year Thailand has expanded cooperation in this area to China and Malaysia. We are more than ready to further expand cooperation in this area to both states parties and non-states parties to the Convention.

Thirdly, Thailand continues to highlight a community-based rehabilitation approach in our attempt to support social and economic inclusion of the disabled mine victims. Moreover, we believe that proper vocational training is the best way to empower disabled people and will ultimately help them with social and economic reintegration. Over the years, the village health volunteer network together with the local government units, with budgetary support from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, has conducted vocational training programmes countrywide including in all 27 mine-affected provinces. The programmes prove to be successful not only because they help the disabled to regain their confidence, but also because they encourage members of the communities to learn how to help people with disabilities to successfully reintegrate into their communities.

Mr. President,

The number of landmine casualties in Thailand has been reduced over the past few years. During October 2010 to September 2011, there were 18

casualties, reduced from 23 casualties last year. However, the downward trend is not enough, only a zero mine victim statistic will satisfy us. Therefore, we will continue to further enhance our victim assistance capacity. Moreover, as Thailand fully subscribes to the humanitarian objective of this Convention, it has always been our determination to ensure the full social and economic reintegration of mine victims. We therefore, commit to making an improved effort, as well as to share our experience and lessons learnt in this area for the benefit of all the victims of this inhumane weapon.

Thank you
