

**Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand
during the Consideration of the General Status and Operation
of the Convention: Cooperation and Assistance (Agenda 10(e))
at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to Mine Ban Convention
Thursday, 1 December 2011 Morning**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Colleagues,

We wish to begin by commending the work of H.E. Mr. Gazmend Turdiu of Albania, in his previous capacity as the President of the 10th MSP, and the current Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance. He has indeed played an instrumental role in reinvigorating the discussions on international cooperation and assistance which are absolutely crucial in ensuring the success of the Convention.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Kerry Brinkert, the Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and his able team for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. President,

Thailand recognizes that the main responsibility in fulfilling the obligations under the Convention rest with States Parties. Nevertheless, it is important to note that the brunt of the effects of landmines continues to fall mostly on developing countries. Given resource limitations faced by these countries, the success of the Convention will therefore rest on shared responsibility and partnership.

Thailand would like to reiterate our commitment to engaging with States Parties in accordance with action number 48 of the Cartagena Action Plan, in ensuring effective mechanisms for States Parties to identify needs and mobilize resources to meet those needs.

Mr. President,

In this regard, Thailand wishes to reiterate its two specific proposals with a view to facilitating further discussions on these very important issues. The first proposal relates to an establishment of a Trust Fund, which was originated from the discussions during the Bangkok Workshop on Achieving a Mine-Free Southeast Asia, back in April 2009.

The second proposal concerns a database mechanism, whereby information on the availability of expertise, financial and technical assistance, as well as the needs for such expertise and assistance could be gathered and compiled. This will enable States Parties to be informed of where the needs are, as well as the kind of assistance that are available to meet such needs. This will therefore lead to a better exchange of information on available assistance, particularly a range of assistance beyond financial resources, and could potentially be a valuable tool for facilitating South-South cooperation.

We are pleased to receive a number of positive responses on these proposals from States Parties during the meeting of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance in June 2011. We therefore strongly believe that States Parties should consider exploring these proposals further.

In this context, we wish to request the ISU to develop a background paper on these matters for discussion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance in May 2012. In relation to the Trust Fund, it would be useful if the background paper provides an overview of existing funding models, including a variety of trust funds already in existence, and if it could highlight options for States Parties to consider regarding the pros and cons of existing or possible new funding mechanisms. As regards the establishment of a database, a background paper on this issue could include some estimates of potential costs that may be involved.

Mr. President,

We fully understand that this may not be a most opportune time for setting aside money for a mine action trust fund, given the current financial turmoil in many parts of the world. However, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that the Cartagena Action Plan is fully implemented. We therefore believe that there is no harm in initiating a process to further explore and facilitate discussions on these issues in order to develop a common understanding on how we could enhance the objectives of the Convention in this regard.

In closing, I wish to reiterate that Thailand stands ready to work closely with you, the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance, and other States Parties to strengthen our collective efforts on this very important issue of cooperation and assistance.

I thank you, Mr. President.
