

**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva  
at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Landmine  
Convention  
Agenda Item 8: General Exchange of Views  
3 December 2012**

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Colleagues,

Since this is the first time that Thailand is taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to preside over the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties. I am confident that under your able guidance, this meeting will be successfully concluded. At the same time, let me extend our appreciation to H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn, for his instrumental role and valuable contribution during his Presidency of the Convention over the past year.

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,

I would like to make a few general comments and invite my colleagues from the relevant agencies to speak during the subsequent agenda items which are directly related to their areas of work and responsibility.

First of all, I wish to reiterate that universalization remains one of the core objectives of the Convention. Thailand therefore welcomes the statement made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar that his Government is seriously considering the Mine Ban Convention, along with other key disarmament treaties. Looking ahead, we hope that continued efforts will be made to build awareness and understanding about the objectives of the Convention, especially in the Southeast Asian Region. This is essential if universalization is to be achieved.

Secondly, Thailand believes that regional cooperation is crucial in enhancing the potential to achieve the objectives of the Convention. We therefore welcome the adoption of the draft ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit held last month in Cambodia. We look forward to working closely with our ASEAN counterparts to develop the modalities on the ARMAC in the near future.

Thirdly, Thailand attaches great importance to the cooperation and assistance aspects, which are crucial if we are to ensure the success of the Convention. We strongly believe that cooperation and assistance are important tools to assist States Parties to better implement their obligations under the Convention. Thailand is therefore pleased to see good progress in this regard, including the setting up of the Platform for Partnerships – whereby information on available assistance will be furnished. We look forward to working closely with Ecuador as the incoming Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance to further enhance our work in these areas.

Finally, Mr. President, Thailand wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) on their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. That is twenty years of hard work from the beginning of the process to ensure that the landmine problems are addressed for the benefit and safety of civilians on the ground. Their work and dedication are therefore very much appreciated.

In closing, Mr. President, I, on behalf of the Thai delegation, wish to reassure you of our full support and cooperation. We look forward to engaging actively in the discussions during the course of this week.

Thank you.

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