

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Ms. Morakot Sriswasdi, Deputy Director-General,
Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
15th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
29 September 2016, Santiago, Chile

Agenda 10 (c): Cooperation and Assistance

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation Assistance. We concur with the Committee that international cooperation and assistance is a crucial part for the full implementation of the Convention.

The article 6 of the Convention suggests several ways and means to seek, to receive and to provide assistance, including in the form of information sharing, trainings and establishment of database – be it through the UN system, civil societies or on a bilateral basis.

However, according to the Committee's observations, identifying obstacles for the Convention's full implementation and making it known seem to remain a challenge for many States. New and alternative forms of assistance should therefore be considered, including trilateral cooperation and public-private partnership. We believe that a strengthened partnership with relevant stakeholders is a key tool to further promote and enhance international cooperation.

On our part, in May 2016, Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC), in cooperation with the UXO-NRA of the Lao PDR and the US Pacific Command (USPACOM), conducted a trilateral EOD training as part of confident building measures. The annual joint exercise has been planned and TMAC is ready to support the said training upon request. Moreover, TMAC also have annual joint training with the US on Mine Detector and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Courses, and work closely with international and local NGOs with a view to enhance our personnel's capability to conduct technical survey and clearance.

At the regional level, Thailand works closely with our neighbouring countries to share our experiences and good practices on mine clearance. As a recipient country, Thailand Mine Action Center has been assisted by the GICHD and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to improve methodology for mine survey and clearance through trainings and capacity building projects.

We wish to express our gratitude to those partners and the donor countries, namely Japan, Norway, and the United States, for their continued support in realizing the zero-victim and mine-free areas in the Kingdom.

Mr. President,

The Maputo Declaration's 2025 aspiration of a mine-free world and zero-new-victim gets closer and enhanced international cooperation and assistance will contribute to such achievement.

We look forward to receiving the Committee's observations on comprehensive approach to achieve those goals which will be submitted to the Meeting in Vienna next year, and will remain actively engaged in the discussion.

Thank you.

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