

**Statement of the Thai Delegation
On Assisting the Victims (Agenda Item 11 (b))**

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on Thailand's efforts to assist landmine victims within the country.

First, there is now in place a Master Plan on Mine Victim Assistance for the years 2007-2011 which was drafted by the Thailand Mine Action Centre or TMAC following broad based consultations with the relevant government agencies, civil society and NGOs. The aim of the Master Plan is twofold. First, it aims to ensure that landmine survivors receive proper treatment and care both physically and mentally. Second, it aims to support the potential of landmine survivors, so that they can fully contribute to the community and are able to live in society with pride and dignity.

Regarding the implementation of the Plan, different government sectors have been designated as agencies in charge of different aspects of work in accordance with their fields of expertise. For instance, the Ministry of Public Health is responsible for medical care and rehabilitation of landmine survivors, whereas issues pertaining to work and vocational training come under the Ministry of Labour. It is anticipated that a clear delegation of the work will foster a sense of ownership by all agencies involved. This Master Plan also encourages the civil society and NGOs to work hand-in-hand with the relevant government sectors. Partnerships among all sectors at all levels have always been the character of mine action activities in Thailand, and we are determined to continue and enhance this positive trend. In this regard, Thailand would like to acknowledge its appreciation to the various NGOs and independent foundations which have played a significant role in assisting mine victims in Thailand, namely, the Prosthetic Foundation, Handicap International, Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines, Association of Persons with Physical Disability International (ADPI) and the General Chatichai Choonhavan Foundation, to name but a few.

It must be noted that the Master Plan is still awaiting final approval by the National Committee on Humanitarian Mine Action. However, pending this approval, the Plan has already been put into action by the relevant government agencies. It is with regret that we are unable to complete the translation of the Master Plan into English in time for the 7 MSP. However, we will continue with this task and we anticipate that the English version of the Master Plan will be available for those who are interested in the near future.

Madam Chair,

The second progress that ought to be mentioned here is the Master Plan for Mine Risk Education for the years 2007-2011. The Plan has been drafted and is in the process of being finalized. It aims to raise awareness about the danger of

landmines and UXO so that people living in the vicinity of the mine-contaminated areas are able to better protect themselves and their families. We anticipate that the Master Plan will serve as a preventive tool and may contribute towards the reduction of landmine casualties. However, it is important to note that mine risk education programmes are intended to complement ongoing victim assistance programmes and not serve as a substitute for them.

Lastly, it is important to convey to you that the number of mine casualties in Thailand for the year 2006 stands at 8 persons. This is a positive sign compared to 2005 with the number of mine casualties totaling 19 persons. Although Thailand is grateful for this reduction, we are not content. One landmine casualty is already one too many. We are determined to continue with mine risk education and victim assistance programmes in our efforts to reduce landmine casualties and provide both short and long term care and rehabilitation for landmine survivors.

Thank you.
