

**NINTH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 24-28 November 2008

Assisting the Victims

Statement by Thailand
**as incoming Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and
Socio-Economic Reintegration**

27 November 2008

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the spirit of cooperation which has been the hallmark of this Convention, I am extremely pleased to be delivering this statement also on behalf of Belgium which, together with my country, Thailand, will be assuming the role of Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration in this very important year in the life of the Convention leading up to the Second Review Conference.

Since the First Review Conference, through the work of this Standing Committee, we have seen an increasing focus on victim assistance. Now more than ever there is an acceptance that victim assistance should be treated with the same precision and seriousness as other core aims of the Convention.

As Co-Chair, we will continue the work of our predecessors- Afghanistan, Austria, Cambodia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Sudan and Switzerland- to ensure progress in achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan. We will also be looking forward to ascertain what should be done during the next five year period of implementation of the Convention to ensure that States Parties meet expectations, in a measurable way, to landmine survivors.

However, achieving the aims of the Nairobi Action Plan and beyond in relation to victim assistance will require committed and coordinated efforts at all levels. That means states, international institutions, civil society and, most importantly, survivors working together. Only then can we make real and sustainable progress to improve the quality of daily life of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.

Thank you, Mr. President