

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative,**  
**at the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council,**  
**the annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities**  
**“Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on situations**  
**of risk and humanitarian emergencies”**  
**4 March 2016, Geneva**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Thailand has the pleasure of addressing the distinguished panel as we debate this very important issue on behalf of the Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, comprising Belgium, Colombia, Senegal and Thailand.

During this year, Thailand is Chairing the Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The Committee’s work on victim assistance efforts over the next four years is outlined in the Actions of the Convention’s Maputo Action Plan 2014-2019. The Maputo Action Plan contains 7 Actions on Landmine Victim Assistance with the aim to ensure the full, equal and effective participation of mine victims in society.

We note the timeliness of this year's annual panel on Article 11 where several countries around the world are suffering from ongoing conflicts and their aftermath. We thereby agree with the report on two main points. First, the need to ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from services and assistance in conflict and emergency situation and to ensure the effective "Build Back Better". Secondly, the importance of data collection and the report's conclusion/recommendations on integrating disability-related strategies in the prevention of risk and humanitarian action with the aim to promote peace and curb the growing number of people affected and disabled in conflict or emergency situation.

Mr. President,

We view that the discussion today has the potential to form perfect synergy with the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan and its aim to achieve a Mine Free World in 2025, as well as the World Humanitarian Summit to take place in May 2016.

Fulfilling the Convention's obligation, including by ensuring the rights of and providing assistance to persons with disabilities caused by anti-personnel mines and other types of weapons, is a challenging tasks faced by a numbers of States Parties to the APMBC, mostly developing contries. The Committee is doing its utmost to enhance the capacity and ensure the inclusion and the full and active participation of mine victim and their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, particularly concerning national action plans, legal frameworks, policies, implementation mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. President,

The preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit has included among other issues, the subject of "Making humanitarian action work for people with disabilities", which reflect the CRPD's Article 11.

The preparatory process of the WHS stresses the importance of considering persons with disabilities affected by humanitarian crisis not only as victims but as agents of change and as assets in the different phases of response, preparation, recuperation and building resilience. Thus, there is the need to empower them at all the levels (local, national and international). There is also an initiative to develop global standards and guidelines on disability inclusion in humanitarian action with concrete responsibilities, which will address the coordination of humanitarian assistance system.

In this connection, we have two questions for the panel. Firstly, what are good and concrete examples of capacity-building, follow-up care and rehabilitation, data collection for persons with disabilities in conflict/post-conflict? Secondly, we wish to learn more about building partnership, particularly during this period of resources scarcity, between relevant actors to ensure that affected States obtain adequate resources to "Build Back Better"?

Mr. President,

We believe this to be a key aspect of our discussion today and one which the States Parties and the Committee take very seriously.

Thank you.

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