

**Statement by Thailand**  
**Agenda item 9: General Exchange of Views**  
**Third Meeting of States Parties, Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**Oslo, Norway**  
**12 September 2012**

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Since this is the first time Thailand takes the floor, we would like to join previous speakers in thanking the Government of the Kingdom of Norway for the wonderful organization of this meeting and the warm hospitality extended to us. We also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Norway upon its election as President of the Third Meeting of States Parties for the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Like others, we are certain that under your able leadership, the meeting will be fruitful.

Mr. President,

Thailand shares with the international community the humanitarian principle of protecting innocent civilians and preventing unnecessary loss of civilian lives. We also strictly uphold our obligations under international humanitarian law and maintain our unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of civilians in conflict situations. It is for these reasons that we have become a state party to relevant international instruments, such as the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Chemical Weapons and the Convention on Biological Weapons.

Mr. President,

Thailand is well aware of the serious impact posed by cluster munitions and firmly supports the humanitarian principles that lie at the core of the Convention. Thailand has experienced first-hand the long term repercussions of explosive remnants of war, including anti-personal landmines and cluster munitions remnants, which contaminate land, render it unusable, and hinder local economic development.

Realizing the importance of this noble calling, we have engaged with the international community since the inception of the Convention on Cluster

Munitions, especially within the framework of the so-called Oslo Process. Although Thailand is not yet a State Party to the Convention, we have implemented a number of obligations, particularly in the area of clearance and victim assistance.

Especially on the Victim Assistance, it is my pleasure to share with the meeting that, based on our work under the Mine Ban Convention, we have built on the holistic policies and programmes that cover the area of emergencies medical services to socio-economic integration. Moreover, we have successfully integrated the work of Victim Assistance into the broader national scheme on person with disabilities, health care services and socio-economic development, in order to ensure that the services entitled to the victim of these inhumane weapons are sustained. This is in line with the principles contained in Article 5(2)(e) of the Convention that there should be no discrimination against or among cluster munition victims, or between cluster munition victims and those who have suffered injuries or disabilities from other causes.

I am pleased to reiterate that Thailand stands ready to share our experience in this area with other countries. During the past years, we have provided technical assistance to a number of countries in the area of prosthetics production. On this note, we are happy to inform the meeting that besides the technique to produce an affordable prosthetics, other expertise areas that we would like to provide a technical assistance and share experience with other countries, especially, to the neighboring countries, include the emergency medical care.

Mr. President,

Thailand has been considering the possibility of joining the convention on an ongoing basis, having in mind that we will join the Convention when we are certain that we will be fully able to fulfill all of our obligations. During the past few years, we have carried out a series of activities, with the support of like-minded countries as well as organizations, in order to prepare Thailand for accession to the Convention. The activities include a Round Table Discussion on the Convention on Cluster Munitions supported by the ICRC in July 2010, the Workshop on Cluster Munitions: Policy Personnel supported by the Norwegian People's Aid in August 2011 and the briefing entitled "Convention on Cluster Munitions: Where we are?" also supported by NPA and the Norwegian Government organized last month. Moreover, we are please to share with this meeting that, earlier this year, Thailand with the support of NPA, has published an unofficial translation of the Convention in Thai. This translation is believed to help promote better understanding of the Convention among relevant Thai

authorities and the public as well as to achieve its ultimate purpose of supporting the universal implementation of this humanitarian Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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