

**Statement by Thailand**  
**At the Second Meeting of States Parties, Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**Agenda: Universalization**  
**14 September 2011**

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Thailand continuously participated in the Oslo Process. We have continued to engage with the international community in order to raise awareness and to enhance better understanding on different aspects across agencies in Thailand. As I mentioned this morning about the Workshop on Cluster Munitions held in August in Bangkok, it is another evident example of our recent engagement with the international community. The Workshop is also our effort along the path that helps pave the way towards the universalization of the Convention.

At the workshop, there were representatives from various national security authorities concerned as well as those of civil society. Diverse views were exchanged in an open manner. Many interesting questions and issues were also raised and discussed at length. The adverse effects of cluster munitions are now imprinted alongside the overall national security context. It has remained a significant element and gained more and more importance in the evaluation and formulation of Thailand's comprehensive national defence strategy.

Participants to the workshop also discussed all possible challenges that Thailand may need to cope with if we are to accede to the convention. Among other things, the budget constraint, compatible and affordable technologies, secured sources of technical assistance as well as the priority of national security are key issues to be addressed. In the period ahead, Thailand will continue to exchange views and concerns with our friends and stay abreast of the latest developments that will assist our deliberations amongst the concerned agencies at home.

Mr. President,

Being an observer does not preclude Thailand from making contributions to the Convention. Our decade-long experience in fulfilling our obligations under the Mine Ban Convention, has positioned Thailand to share the following views.

Firstly, taken the case of landmines, countries that are seriously affected by unexploded ordnance, are likely to be financially and technically handicapped to fulfill their humanitarian, moral, or legal obligations. International cooperation and assistance is, therefore, a necessity for the successful implementation.

Secondly, Thailand firmly believes in extending a helping hand whenever we are able to do so. Years of providing victim assistance, emergency medical care, and physical and mental rehabilitation to landmine victims have created specialized expertise and capacity. We are ready to share them with any interested countries.

Mr. President,

Thailand is now at a critical juncture. Constructive engagement from the international community is a crucial element for our next steps as well as in the continued review process. However, Thailand would like to reiterate that humanitarian principles have been and will continue to be the guiding light for Thailand's actions in this area.

Thank you.