

Statement by Thailand

On General exchange of views

at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

2 September 2014

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time Thailand takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I also wish to express our appreciation to the Government of Costa Rica for the excellent organization and warm hospitality extended to all participants.

Mr. President,

Humanitarian principles have always been at the core of Thailand's policy. In this regard, Thailand always adheres strictly and indiscriminately to these principles enshrined in various conventions, including Convention on Cluster Munitions and Mine Ban Convention. In practice, Thailand's humanitarian mine action is designed to encompass mine clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education.

On mine clearance, Thailand is committed to the goal of zero-victim and mine-free country from explosive remnants of war (ERW) including landmines and cluster munitions. Having reduced mine-affected areas from approximately 2,500 square kilometers in 2001 to 500 square kilometers today, we hope to share our experience and lessons learned for the benefits of our neighboring countries. In this connection, between 25 – 30 June 2013 Thailand organized a training course in mine action for representatives from Myanmar. We will again organize another more extensive course this September 2014. Last year, Thailand also donated 500,000 baht (approximately 15,000 USD) to support the clearance of unexploded ordnance implemented by the National Regulatory Authority of Lao PDR.

Mr. President,

On victim assistance, Thailand takes a holistic, integrated and inclusive approach by integrating support for mine victims into broader national plans, policies and legal frameworks for all persons with disabilities. Thailand's victim assistance is closely connected to our obligations under the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which Thailand ratified in 2008. For instance, state hospitals, especially those at the borders, provide emergency medical cares, physical and mental rehabilitations not only to Thai mine victims but also to victims from neighboring countries. At the moment, the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) of Thailand is developing a course on emergency victim assistance for deminers and mine victims, which NIEM also hopes to share our practice and lessons learned with our neighboring countries.

I thank you, Mr. President.
