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Final version

Statement by Thailand
Agenda item: General exchange of views
14 September 2011

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Since this is the first time Thailand takes the floor, we would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Government of the Republic of the Lebanon for the wonderful organization of this meeting and the warm hospitality extended to us. We also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lebanon upon the election as President of the Second 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,

I would like to refer to Thailand's statement during the Intersessional Meeting in Geneva in June. We have clearly demonstrated our willingness to have a constructive engagement with the international community. We have placed great importance on our obligations under the international humanitarian law as well as our unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of civilians in conflict situations.

Mr. President,

Having said that, I wish to draw attention to paragraph 21 of the Draft Beirut Progress Report. We are of the view that this paragraph would not be complete and balanced without Thailand's views and other factual circumstances in such context. The delegation of Thailand would like to put into record the following two important points. First, it needs to reiterate here that **Thailand strictly adhered to the applicable international humanitarian law that all states are obliged to prevent unnecessary loss of civilian lives.** The clarification on this particular point has to be made to reflect our views for the better understanding of the situation in that paragraph.

Mr. President,

Thailand is doing its best to work with our neighbours toward a peaceful coexistence. We are moving forward. We hope that we will be able to start a new chapter from now on.

Mr. President,

Second, as for the workshop also mentioned in Paragraph 21, we are pleased to inform the Meeting of the latest development that the Workshop was held on 18-19 August in Bangkok. It was organized by the Norwegian People's Aid, with valuable assistance from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Australian Embassy, and the Swiss Embassy in Bangkok. We would like to express our appreciation here for this collective support

In the thematic discussion later in the day, we are willing to share with the details of the workshop and other works on humanitarian assistance we have had from our experiences in implementing our commitment under the sister Convention - the Mine Ban Convention to which Thailand is a State Party.

Thank you.