

**Statement by Thailand**  
**on General exchange of views**  
**at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**  
**10 September 2013**  
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Mr. President,

Since this is the first time Thailand takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the important post of President of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I also wish to express our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the excellent organization and warm hospitality extended to all participants. Taking this opportunity, allow me to pay a warm tribute to the outgoing President, H.E. Mr. Steffen Kongstad of Norway, for his commitment and contributions. His visit to Thailand earlier this year has been much appreciated by the Thai agencies concerned which had a good opportunity to discuss and exchange views and knowledge on many aspects of the Convention.

Humanitarian concerns have always been at the core of Thailand's foreign policy, for many different reasons and within many different contexts. Because Thailand has long borne the brunt of the effects of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in large areas of contaminated land, Thailand continues to experience first-hand the serious humanitarian impact posed by remnants of these inhumane weapons. For this reason, Thailand has engaged with the international community since the inception of the Oslo process and adheres strictly to humanitarian principles created by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. President,

Thailand believes that just as important as rapid universalization, dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders is essential to full and effective implementation of the Convention. In this regard, we are pleased to learn that since the entry into force, not only a number of State Parties continues to grow, but also constructive engagement has been seen to be emerging at all fronts. Although Thailand is not yet a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we are pleased to have engaged in a constructive dialogue under the Convention framework. We also have a strong determination to implement the Convention obligations and have already been implementing a number of them. They include, for example, clearance of the area contaminated by explosive remnants of war (ERW), risk education and victim assistance. Important progress has been made in those areas and I would be pleased to share them during the discussion on the relevant agenda item in the next couple of days.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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