

**Statement by Thailand
on Clearance and Risk Reduction
at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
on 11 September 2013**

Madame President,

Thailand is one of the countries affected by the long term repercussions of explosive remnants of war. Experiencing first-hand a negative impact of the remnants which pose a grave danger to local civilians and hinder local economic development, mine clearance and risk education are thus priorities of Thailand's mine action programme.

In this regard, it is my pleasure to share with this meeting that, during the past years the number of contaminated areas we were able to clear have increased drastically. The increased productivity is a result of the Land Release technique we have employed at full scale. In order to keep this trend, Thailand Mine Action Center has conducted a number of training workshops on the Land Release Method, while at the same time, adjusted the technique to better suit the case of Thailand.

Madame President,

The safety of an innocent civilian remains the focus of Thailand's humanitarian mine action. Therefore, Thailand continues to intensively invest in our risk education programme, especially in the area affected by the contamination. During the past year, Thailand Mine Action Center conducted more than 200 risk education activities in a number of villages affected by landmines and ERW. Participating in those activities are students, teachers, local government officials and villagers totaling about 80,000 persons. This effort has resulted in a reduction in the number of landmine and ERW accidents overtime and we hope that the number will continue to decline.

I thank you, Madame President.
