

Statement by the delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Sasiwat Wongsinsawat
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
at the 6th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
6 September 2016, Geneva
Agenda 8 (d) Victim Assistance

Mr. President,

Since my delegation takes the floor for the first time, allow me to join other delegations in expressing our sincere appreciation for your leadership and continued efforts in promoting and ensuring the successful organization of this 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

Thailand has always placed great importance on humanitarian principles as one of the core elements of sustainable peace. We are therefore pleased to participate in this important meeting once again to reaffirm our support to the humanitarian objectives of the Convention.

Mr. President,

It would not be wrong to say that the Convention's principal objective is to reduce human suffering caused by the use of cluster bombs and to prevent new victims of such a tragedy. Victim assistance is therefore the cornerstone of the CCM.

Thailand firmly believes that providing appropriate assistance to victims of cluster munitions, mines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) must be the responsibility of states in accordance with their respective and applicable international obligations.

For Thailand, our vast experiences with landmine survivors confirm the idea that assistance to victims of such incidents must be provided in an equitable manner, without discrimination regarding the causes, and covered all aspects of their lives. This led Thailand to adopt a comprehensive approach to victim assistance that is holistic and closely linked to our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

We welcome the workshop on an Integrated Approach to Victim Assistance held in May this year in which Thailand also participated. We are of the view that, where possible, linkage and integration of the obligation on victim assistance among related international instruments should be promoted, in particular the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

We are pleased to see the circulation of the Guidance on an integrated approach to victim assistance and wish to commend the initiative of Australia, Austria, Chile and Iraq in this regard. This document undoubtedly will be

beneficial for not only States Parties to the CCM but also those of the Mine Ban Convention and the Protocol V of the CCW.

Mr. President,

Victim assistance requires long-term and continual efforts on the part of States to support all victims through difficulties they might be facing in the course of their lives.

As the Chair of the Victim Assistance Committee under the Mine Ban Convention, Thailand would be pleased to work with Coordinators on Victim Assistance under the CCM to bridge the gap between the two conventions by exchanging information and updating work plans with each other, especially lessons-learnt from our work on victim assistance. While we definitely cannot declare our task complete, Thailand stands ready to continue working towards this end and to share our experiences and good practices with our friends and partners.

We are hopeful that the coordination in this important issue will lead us to a world in which all victims are taken care of and no one is left behind.

Thank you.
