

Thailand

Statement by

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at the First Review Conference of States Parties

to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Agenda Item 8: High-Level Segment - General exchange of views

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Mr. President,

At the outset, the Thai delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of this First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I also wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of Croatia for the excellent organisation of this important conference and for the warm hospitality extended to us in this beautiful city.

Mr. President,

Thailand would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its adherence to the humanitarian principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and various disarmament conventions. We therefore wholeheartedly support the objective of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We take note of the growing number of States Parties to the Convention and its increasing universality in this regard. Five years after its entry into force, the Convention has firmly established an international norm against the use of cluster bombs. As for Thailand, we have been closely following developments with a view to consider acceding to the Convention once we are ready to fulfill its obligations.

Mr. President,

Although Thailand is not a State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we have been implementing the relevant and comparable obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to which we are a committed State Party. Our comprehensive humanitarian mine action encompasses mine clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education.

On mine clearance, Thailand remains committed to the goal of a zero-victim and mine-free country from all explosive remnants of war (ERW) including landmines and cluster munitions. The Thailand Mine Action Centre (TMAC) has cleared over 2,100 square kilometres of contaminated land in the last 15 years. We are undertaking a full-fledge operation to finish the clearance and release of the approximately remaining 430 square kilometres of hazardous area as soon as possible to prevent further injuries and casualties.

Thailand has also been active in the area of mine victim assistance. We have adopted a holistic and integrated approach with close connection to our obligations under the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Our support for mine victims is integrated into the broader legal framework, national plans and programmes for persons with disabilities in general. We also encourage community-based empowerment projects and local networks which are extremely important to sustain the well-being of mine survivors in the long-run.

We believe that our experiences and policies regarding our comprehensive humanitarian mine action would also help prepare us to fulfill our obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions once we are ready to accede to it.

Mr. President,

In closing, Thailand is pleased to have engaged in various dialogues under the Convention's framework as an observer state. My delegation is looking forward to see fruitful outcomes from this First Review Conference.

I thank you.

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