

Statement of the Delegation of Thailand
At the Intersessional meetings for
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Agenda 3b: Matters related to the mandate of
the Committee on Victim Assistance
22 May 2019

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Thailand appreciates the Committee on Victim Assistance for its update on activities and preliminary observations on victim assistance.

Victim Assistance is one of the core objectives of the Convention. The Maputo Action Plan adopted in 2014 provides good guidelines for States Parties to assess progress in victim assistance, especially addressing the specific needs of victims on their health, social welfare, education, employment, development, and poverty reduction.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Today, Thailand would like to share with the Committee the progress of our victim assistance works.

In 2017, the Committee recommended Thailand to consider improving our data collection by disaggregating data of victims by age, sex, and occupation. Our network of concerned agencies has been working closely to improve the data collection process. And since November 2018, we have managed to disaggregate the said data as recommended by the Committee.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) remains one of our top priorities in mine-related tasks. Thailand has constantly conducted MRE operations, aiming at preventing occurrences of new victims and ensuring that people in the vicinity of mine contaminated areas avoid risky behavior and understand the danger of landmines. The operation focuses on information sharing and promoting participation of local communities as well as creating networks with local communities. Thailand also employs preventive measures such as posting in hazardous areas, warning signs containing descriptions in various languages.

Thailand's victim assistance efforts emphasize bringing mine victims to the nearest medical services in a timely manner, through coordination with a hotline implemented by the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM). This proves to be one of the most challenging tasks since mine-contaminated lands are often located in remote areas, an obstacle to rapid and timely on-site emergency medical services for mine victims.

For long-term assistance, we have been working to ensure that our victim assistance measures are comprehensive and closely correspond with our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The measures have also been incorporated into our national plans and programs on persons with disabilities. If mine victims become disabled, their rights will be guaranteed by the application of the Empowerment of Persons with Disability Act. A Disabilities Service Center has also been established to assist all persons with disabilities in this regard.

Madam/Mr. Chair

Thailand has always placed assistance for mine victims at the heart of our efforts in the implementation of obligations under the Convention. We firmly believe that any approach to assist mine victims must be based on full respect of their rights and dignity. It is therefore the Government's duty to ensure that basic rights and services are accessible to mine victims and that they are able to participate fully and equitably in the society where they live in.

Thailand stands ready to work with all States Parties and the Committee to advance victim assistance works as well as in all other aspects of the Convention.

Thank you