

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Standing Committee Meetings**

**Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand  
Special Session on International Cooperation and Assistance**

**Ms. Jirusaya Birananda, First Secretary  
Peace, Security and Disarmament Division,  
Department of International Organizations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**

**25 June 2010  
10.00-13.00 hrs.**

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Madame President,

Thailand expresses its sincere appreciation to you for convening this Special Session. We wish to address a number of issues raised in your background document on both victim assistance and Article 5 obligations at the same time.

First, while international cooperation and assistance should only complement national ownership, it is important to recognize that each affected State may not have the same capacity in meeting every obligation under the Convention.

On our part, Thailand is committed to taking full national ownership of our obligations. We have enhanced our efforts by developing the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 in consistent with the Cartagena Action Plan. We have come a long way in promoting the rights of landmine survivors and are in the position to provide cooperation and assistance, but we still face serious challenges in mine clearance.

Second, Thailand observes that the form and context of cooperation and assistance has evolved over time. While

financial support remains vital, the need for in-kind cooperation and assistance such as technical expertise, provision equipment, and capacity building has increased. Assistance in capacity-building is also essential, especially when such national operations as mine clearance encounter protracted impediments.

At the same time, many affected States have developed affordable and practical expertise. Therefore cooperation and assistance may be in-kind instead of financial, and can also arise in the South-South context. For example, Thailand has worked with Burundi in sharing our expertise in prosthesis. We are looking into ways to cooperate with Lao PDR on victim assistance as well. As a result, a new form of cooperation may include a third party contributing to capacity building exercises between two affected States Parties.

Third, to ensure efficient use of limited resources, Thailand proposes that States Parties in need of assistance in similar areas may work together with donor countries or agencies to form a group, aimed at collectively sharing experiences and expertise or training. Working as a group rather than individually will help to yield a more tangible outcome with efficient use of resources.

In this connection, as we are evaluating the roles of the ISU, we see that the ISU can function as a clearing house of activities to match demand and supply of cooperation and assistance available.

Fourth and most importantly, sustainability of cooperation and assistance is one of the top challenges. Overall, cooperation and assistance on mine action from the international community has been noticeably in decline. At the same time, it is understandable that the limited pool of funding from the international community and greater competition for resources may have resulted in prioritization of assistance to affected States Parties. Given that the operation of the Mine Ban Convention has been looked upon and replicated as a model for

other Conventions, however, the lack of sustainable international cooperation and assistance under this Convention may set an undesirable precedent and in the future, undermine universalization efforts for other Conventions.

In the case of Thailand, for example, a number of promises for assistance came around the time when we were considering whether to join the Convention, but only a few came through and disappeared shortly in the end. Thailand had for a while been implementing the obligations under both Article 5 and victim assistance single-handedly.

Fortunately, our victim assistance work has benefited from becoming a part of our broader national disabilities framework. Unfortunately, our mine clearance operations still face significant challenges to meeting our extended deadline.

Only until recently, the UNDP and the Norwegian People's Aid offered to help enhance mine clearance capacity of Thailand Mine Action Center. We greatly appreciate their support and hope that their support will continue in the future.

Madame President,

Finally, we are open to exploring further on the institutional arrangements of cooperation and assistance. We welcome the idea of a Standing Committee particularly dealing with this topic or any other innovative mechanisms. At the same time, it is important to consider the issue of cooperation and assistance in conjunction with our evaluation of the ISU and its financing constraints.

In closing, we stand ready to work with you and other States Parties to strengthen our collective efforts on cooperation and assistance.

Thank you, Madame President.

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