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**Intervention by H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi,
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand
during the General Exchange of Views
at the 13rd Meeting of the States Parties to Mine Ban Convention
Monday, 2 December 2013, 1000-1300 hrs
Room 19, Palais des Nations**

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time Thailand takes the floor, first of all, I would like to pay a warm tribute to the outgoing President, Ambassador Matjaž Kovačič (*Mate-jaas Kovac-itch*) of Slovenia, for his commitment and positive contributions. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to this important post of President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Mine Ban Convention. We have no doubt that your able leadership, diplomatic skills, and experience will make a lasting contribution, especially as we are preparing for the Third Review Conference next year.

Mr. President,

I would like to support your initiative to focus our discussion during this meeting on the topics concerning international cooperation and assistance. Thailand recognizes that the main responsibility in fulfilling the obligations under the Convention rest with States Parties. Nevertheless, it is also important to note that the brunt of the effects of landmines continues to fall mostly on countries with limited resources.

For this reason, Thailand believes that it is timely we seriously consider these issues and strive to address the challenges facing international cooperation and assistance. We look forward to the discussion under the agenda item 10, which should continue and build on our productive discussion at the Bangkok Symposium which Thailand co-chaired with Ecuador with the support from the Australian Government and the ISU during 23 to 25 June 2013 in Bangkok, under the theme

“Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance: Building Synergy towards Effective Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation”.

Mr. President,

During the past two years as Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance, we are pleased to witness the establishment of the “Platform for Partnership” as an information exchange tool of the breadth of available assistance in humanitarian mine action. We do hope that State Parties will continue to utilize this tool as a platform for partnership and put it into action with tangible outcomes.

On our part, Thailand has recently conducted a Study Programme on the country’s humanitarian mine action for a delegation from Myanmar. The programme aimed at sharing Thailand’s best practices and lessons learned in the area of mine clearance, risk education and victim assistance, among others. We hope that the experience we shared during the visit will prove useful for Myanmar, which is now in the process of initializing its mine action programme.

At the regional level, Thailand is pleased that the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Mine Action Center (ARMAC) has recently been adopted. We hope that this regional center will provide ASEAN countries with a network of cooperation among ourselves and with related international partners to support each country’s efforts in addressing humanitarian problems from mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

Mr. President,

Lastly, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I wish to reassure you of our full support and we look forward to actively participating in the discussion this week.

Thank you. Mr. President.
