

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Ms. Morakot Srisawasdi
Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Organization
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Vienna, Austria | 19 December 2017

Agenda 11(a): Assisting the victims

Mr. President,

Thailand attaches great importance on the humanitarian consequences of land mines and have been continuously working towards the improvement of the livelihoods of mine victims.

It is with deep regret to report that this year we had 6 mine victims, 4 of whom were deminers, and 2 patrol rangers. These unfortunate occurrences were not a result of carelessness but rather the result of environmental challenges in extremely heavily contaminated areas.

On the other hand, we are pleased to inform that there are zero civilian casualties in 2017. This clearly reflects the success of our Mine Risk Education (MRE) programs in raising awareness of landmines and promoting behavioral change through public-information campaigns, education and training, and liaison with communities. This year our MRE programs have reached nearly 50,000 people.

Mr. President,

For Thailand, we believe victim assistance measures must be comprehensive. Our services for landmine victims are integrated into the broader legal framework, national plans and programmes for persons with disabilities in general, which closely corresponds with our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Victim assistance measures must also be sustainable. This is because landmines are mostly placed in rural and remote areas. Local capacities must therefore be strengthened to allow members of local communities to take care of landmine victims in their own areas.

As last year's chair of the Committee, we hope that Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting that we launched with our partners last year, including the recently published versions in Spanish and French, has helped States in their reporting efforts. We thank the current members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for their report and observations made on the implementation of our victim assistance obligations.

Mr. President,

With over 1,000 mine survivors in Thailand, we stand ready to share our experiences and best practices with others to help put an end to the suffering caused by landmines.

Thank you.

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