

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Ms. Chidchanok Suwakon
Manager, Office of Internal Audit, National Institute for Emergency Medicine
Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, Switzerland
27 November 2018

Agenda 9(a): Assisting the victims

Madam President,

Victim assistance represents one of the core objectives and true embodiment of the spirit of the Ottawa Convention. Thailand thanks the Committee on Victim Assistance for assisting States Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Maputo Action Plan, and for its Preliminary Observations on the progress, achievements and challenges of States Parties on victim assistance.

Over the past 5 years, Thailand has been successful in reducing the number of new landmine victims that once stood at an average of 20 new victims per year. Last year, we had zero civilian casualties. This year, however, we regret to inform that we have had 4 new victims, 3 civilians and 1 officer in the area. All incidents occurred near the Thai border where landmine density is at its highest. All victims are being well-cared for and are swiftly recovering.

We will continue to place high priority on Mine Risk Education (MRE) and properly marking and zoning contaminated areas to prevent future incidents. MRE, in particular, has proven to be a leading factor in the reduction of new victims. Our programmes focus on promoting behavioural changes through public information campaigns, training of trainers, and liaison with risk-prone communities. Each year, our programmes reach around 40,000 people, the majority being youth.

Madam President,

The observations last year made by the Committee on Thailand's work on Victim Assistance recommended Thailand to consider disaggregating our data. We have always seen the benefit of doing so but found it difficult due to poor data gathering and database capabilities. I am therefore pleased to announce that we have made great strides to improve our data collection and analysis, both for victim assistance and mine risk education, now better disaggregated by age, sex, and occupation.

Furthermore, Thailand is pleased to learn from many States Parties that they are still benefiting from the Guidance on Victim Assistance Reporting that we launched during our Chairmanship of the Committee in 2016. The Guidance,

now offered in 4 languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic, covers 11 of the 29 countries with a large number of landmine survivors or 70 percent of all survivors worldwide.

Madam President,

Lastly, we welcome the Victim Assistance Expert Meeting held on the margins of this Meeting and applaud the ISU and Belgium for the initiative. The Meeting is being attended by our specialists from the Ministry of Human Security and Social Development and National Institute for Emergency Medicine. We hope that the Meeting will foster fruitful exchanges of both best practices in the field and also frank discussions on key challenges still faced by the victim assistance community. Furthermore, we look forward to the convening of a Global Conference on Victim Assistance in 2019. We are eager to learn more about this interesting proposal and are prepared to support this initiative by all means.

Thank you.
