Intervention by Thailand

Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques

Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention

21 June 2010 (Session 10.15-13.00 hrs.)

Co-chairs,

I would like to take this opportunity to express Thailand's appreciation to you and your team for the hard work in maintaining the momentum following the Cartagena Summit. I am confident that the meetings this week will be a useful forum to take note of the States Parties' progress on the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan.

- Thailand believes that the States Parties' transparency report as required by Article 7 has been an essential element in monitoring the progress of States Parties' implementation of the Convention. In fact, it is also a practical means by which States Parties can keep track of their own mine action undertakings.
- Thailand regularly reports on mines that are retained and transferred in Form D of the report. In the 2009 report, Thailand stated that the Royal Thai Police used 12 landmines for training and they were destroyed. In addition to this, the Royal Thai Air Force has a plan to use landmines for training once every three years.
- Thailand's purpose for retaining mines is for the development and training in mine detection and clearance and destruction techniques in accordance with Article 3.
- The number of mines retained in Thailand for the purpose under Article 3 has gradually been reduced each year. However, since the number of mines retained is rather high compared with the number of those used for training or transferred for destruction each year, Thailand will, therefore, review the retention and destruction plans of these mines to comply with our commitment on total mine eradication by 2018, as stated in our extension request.
