

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
Mr. Pairoj Boonsirikamchai, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Institute for
15th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention *for*
2016, Santiago, Chile *Emergency*
Medicine

Agenda 10 (a): Assisting the Victims

Mr. President,

[Since my delegation takes the floor for the first time, I wish to express our appreciation to the Government of Chile for the excellent arrangements and organisation of the meeting, as well as warm hospitality extended to our delegation.]

We are delighted in particular to see that this Meeting of States Parties is able to be convened in Santiago as planned, despite budgetary challenges faced at the earlier stage.

We also thank the members of the Committee on Victim Assistance for their report and observations made on the implementation of our victim assistance obligations. It is indeed Thailand's honour to chair the Committee throughout the year.

Mr. President,

The Convention made it very clear since the first sentence. The objective and *raison d'être* of the Convention is the determination to put an end to human sufferings and casualties caused by indiscriminate effects of anti-personnel mines.

The Royal Thai Government always places assistance to mine victims at the heart of our efforts to implement the Convention. We firmly believe that any approach to assist mine victims must be based on the full respect of their rights and dignity. It is therefore the Government's duty to ensure that basic rights and services are accessible to mine victims and that they are able to participate fully and equitably in the society where they live in.

At the present era, there should be no more new victims of landmines. Hence, mine clearance together with mine-risk education is a crucial task. At the same time, appropriate care for mine survivors to mitigate and compensate suffering of those already fallen victims is no less urgent.

As one of mine-affected countries with a large number of mine survivors, Thailand has gone through long path in the field of mine victim assistance. We are well aware that victim assistance is not a one-off mission but rather a long-term process encompassing many aspects of the lives of those victims.

Victim assistance in Thailand has been implemented with close linkage to our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The rights and assistance provided to mine victims are integrated into our domestic laws, national plans and programmes for persons with disabilities in general. The relevant authorities have been working closely together to push forward the progress of comprehensive mine victim assistance from emergency situation to long-term medical care, physical rehabilitation, basic social welfare, and vocational training with a view to ensure social inclusion.

An example is a prosthesis service center in one of the heavily mined areas in Ubonratchathani Province. The center offers service from which persons with disabilities, regardless of the cause, can have their prosthesis done in just one day so that they don't need to travel several times to the center. Mobile prosthesis production units are also available to reach out to persons with disabilities in mine-affected provinces, as well as smart-phone application for persons with disabilities to record and report their personal health information. At present, everyone in Thailand who needs prosthesis, including mine victims, has received them.

Mr. President,

It was said that a mine-free world is not necessarily a mine victim-free world. This reminds us once again that victim assistance is a long-term process which will last well beyond the moment that the last landmine is removed and destroyed.

With over 1,000 mine survivors, Thailand is fully committed to the implementation of our victim assistance obligations in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. We also 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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