

**Statement by the Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the 20th Meeting of State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
“General Exchange of View”
21 November 2022, Geneva, Switzerland**

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you, **Ambassador Alvaro Enrique Ayala Meléndez of Colombia**, and your team, as well as the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for organising this meeting.
2. Since becoming a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1997, Thailand has put its utmost efforts to fulfill the obligations under the Convention. As a result, Thailand is currently left with **mere 1.16% of the mine contaminated areas** compared with the areas estimated during the Initial Landmine Impact Survey. Despite the progress, this year Thailand decided to request for Article 5 extension as we face a number of challenges towards our final stage of mine clearance operation.
3. In spite of our submission of request for Article 5 extension, Thailand’s commitment towards a world without landmines has not wavered. Thailand believes that **we are on the right track** to achieve our mine-free goal.
4. The achievement of mine-free goal **will not be just an achievement for a single country**, but rather, reflect the **efforts we all have put** into this work, and create **positive humanitarian impact** for all of us – *by reducing risk* to loss of lives and injuries and thereby **protecting civilians** from the explosive remnants of wars resulted from conflicts in the past – *by returning safe land for habitation and economic development* especially along the border and thereby **increasing connectivity** with neighbouring countries – *by improving safety and security and standard of living* for the people.
5. A number of *factors* are important to the achievement of this goal. In this regard, Thailand would like to share **our two important points on this issue** as follows:
6. First, the international community needs to **concert our efforts** on this important agenda through **multilateral and bilateral frameworks** at all levels. On the multilateral front, Thailand is proud to be playing an active part under this Convention framework, including by currently serving as a member of the **Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**. For bilateral cooperation, Thailand has been working closely with the **governments of Japan, Norway, and the United States** and **other international partners**, as

well as **our neighbouring countries**, including **Cambodia**. We truly appreciate their invaluable support and look forward to strengthening our cooperation with all parties.

7. **International cooperation and assistance** contributes significantly to **mine action progress** in many countries, including Thailand. Even though Thailand's humanitarian mine action operations are mainly carried out and funded by the Royal Thai Government, Thailand values the cooperation with our partners – be it the sharing of best practices, techniques and equipment and funding from our partners and organisations. That is why – as we are approaching the final stage of our mine clearance efforts – Thailand is also **ready to share our experiences and best practices** in humanitarian mine action operations with other States Parties, including with through the framework of **ASEAN Mine Action Center (ARMAC)**. We also encourage others with experiences and resources to extend the assistance to States Parties in need.

8. Second, humanitarian mine action efforts need to be carried out in a **comprehensive manner**. As we are more than half way through the implementation of the **Oslo Action Plan (OAP)**, it is important to ensure that the implementation of the Convention in all aspects are interconnected – from **mine destruction, clearance, victim assistance and mine risk education**, to **international cooperation**, as well as the incorporation of **gender mainstreaming** dimension into our work in a comprehensive manner.

9. On our part, Thailand puts its utmost efforts to ensure that our activities are carried out in line with the OAP, by **integrating mine ban efforts at the national level**, and **coordinating between agencies** – from TMAC to Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MDHS), Ministry of Public Health, National Institute for Emergency Medicine – to local communities, such as schools, hospitals and village health volunteers. Emphasis has been put on **victim assistance and mine risk education**, and we are working our way towards **gender mainstreaming** on this issue.

Mr. President,

9. In closing, Thailand would like to reiterate our commitment to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and our readiness to work with all parties to fulfill the obligations under the Convention towards the achievement of the **goal of a mine-free world**.

Thank you.

Allocated time: 5 minutes

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