

**Keynote Address**  
**by General Saksit Sangchanintra,**  
**Director General of Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC)**  
**“Destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines”**  
**26 November 2024, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to express my sincere pleasure and appreciation to the organizers of the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for inviting me, General Saksit Saengchanintra, Director General of Thailand Mine Action Center, to speak on behalf of the Thai Delegation and share Thailand’s success story on the destruction of the stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

Thailand is the first country in Southeast Asia to have signed the APMBC on 3 December 1997 and subsequently ratified it to the United Nations on 27 November 1998, becoming the 53<sup>rd</sup> country to join the Convention globally.

Since its entry into force in Thailand in May 1999, we have been committed to fulfilling our obligations to reduce human suffering and return safe land to the people. In 2000, Thailand established the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) to serve as the main agency responsible for carrying out these the obligations.

The five main obligations include: (1) the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines, (2) the clearance of anti-personnel mine-contaminated areas from Thai territory, (3) providing mine risk education to the public, (4) assisting mine victims, and (5) the legal implementation of the Convention – collectively known as 'humanitarian mine action.'

A significant achievement that demonstrates Thailand’s steadfast commitment under the Convention is the complete destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

Mr. President,

Thailand’s mine problem stems from past conflicts, where the use of anti-personnel mines was considered as an integral part of military tactics.

Previously, the use of anti-personnel mines was widespread along our border with neighboring countries. However, it was later generally understood that anti-personnel mines, with their inhumane effects, no longer served any military purpose for the country. This is why we joined the Convention and put forth our utmost efforts in mine clearance and destruction.

In April 2003, four years after the Convention came into effect, Thailand destroyed 337,725 anti-personnel mines stockpiled across various military branches.

However, the task was not yet complete. For years, many military units continued to retain some landmines for training purposes.

Mr. President,

Later, by recognizing the indiscriminate and unpredictable effects of landmines, as well as the absence of any credible studies that landmine play any decisive role in military operations, we realized that it was time to rally all efforts and call for the full and complete destruction of the remaining anti-personnel mines under the possession of all units.

Finally, in July 2019, the Chief of Defense Forces and Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Humanitarian Mine Action approved the directive for military services and the Royal Thai Police to survey their retained anti-personnel mines kept for training purposes.

Subsequently, a total of 3,133 training mines were transferred to TMAC for destruction in a single operation between 1-10 August 2019, at Ban Phakdi Phaendin, Watthana Nakhon District, Sa Kaeo Province, therefore fully marking the completion the obligation under Article 4 of the Convention.

I hope that our story of rallying all-encompassing efforts and measures to, once and for all, destroy all the retained stockpiled anti-personnel mines can help remind the APMBC community that it is indeed doable. With little military benefits but huge devastating humanitarian impacts, it is time that this form of indiscriminatory weapons become a matter of the past.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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