

Statement of the Delegation of Thailand
By Lt. Gen. Sittipol Nimnuan
Director-General of Thailand Mine Action Center
Agenda item 6: Renewing the political commitment to the Convention
29 November 2019

Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, my delegation would like to convey our sincere appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your hard work and dedicated effort both in the process leading up to this Conference and in guiding us successfully towards the end of the Conference. Our appreciation also extends to the Government of Norway on their excellent preparation and hospitality rendered to all at this Conference.

Mr. President,

The noble aim of the Convention to prevent human suffering from landmines by banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of these mines has been the core of our works for the past 20 years. Thailand has been working tirelessly and with our utmost efforts to uphold the spirit of the Convention and to fulfill our commitment as a State Party. By pursuing this goal, not only could we reduce the risk of humanitarian harm, but also raise the standard and quality of life for the people in our communities.

Since its entry into force, the Convention has achieved a number of noteworthy counts. More than 53 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed and 31 State Parties have indicated that they have fulfilled their clearance obligations. While these are the causes to celebrate, the existence of landmines reminds us that much remains to be done. This is why we are here, at this Review Conference - to reflect on what we have achieved so far and to renew our commitment, as well as to garner our efforts in addressing challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President,

On Thailand's part, we have strived to fulfill our obligations to the Convention and put our utmost effort to clear the existing mine areas, to destroy our stockpiles, to provide assistance to mine victims, and to cooperate with States and stakeholders in all areas possible.

Thailand is committed to complete our clearance tasks by 2023. Throughout the years, we have been learning and continually improving our working methods and, to date, we have returned over 90% of safe land back to our people. In

addition, this year, we finally disposed all of 3,133 retained anti-personnel mines. Therefore, Thailand no longer retains anti-personnel mines whereby fulfilling our obligation under Article 4 of the Convention.

On victim assistance, Thailand continues to put victim assistance at the forefront of its mine action. We believe that victim assistance measures must be comprehensive and in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Thailand focuses on creating strong local community networks to empower persons with disabilities.

We also recognize the importance of close cooperation and partnerships among States and other organizations in supporting State Parties in their implementation of the Convention. We believe that international cooperation and assistance should be promoted and accessible by all States Parties. We stand ready to share our experiences and expertise with other States upon request.

Mr. President,

It is clear that each country has different mine situations and challenges. Therefore, measures to address them must be tailored appropriately to their needs and requirements. We recognize the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)'s continued important role in assisting State Parties in this regard.

For the ISU to be able to deliver its tasks effectively, it needs to be properly managed and adequately resourced. Therefore, in support of the ISU's deliberation, Thailand wishes to announce our voluntary contribution of 40,000 Swiss Francs in total for 2020-2023. This is a continuation of our previous voluntary pledge of an equal amount to the ISU for 2016-2019. We hope that our contribution will help the ISU in its deliberation.

Mr. President,

In closing, Thailand wishes to express its appreciation to the exchanges and discussions taken place over the past week, which clearly demonstrate our collective commitment to the principles of the Convention. Let us seize the valuable momentum we create at this Review Conference and translate it into concrete actions that will eventually lead us to a world free of landmines.

I thank you.