

**Intervention by
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Donor States and International and other Organisations
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**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I wish to express a few words on cooperation and assistance from the international community to States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention.

The issue of cooperation and assistance is clearly stated in Article 6 of the Convention. Thailand believes that this provision is the core and key element toward successful implementation of the Convention. As one of the many States Parties that was granted an extension of the deadline on mine clearance at the 9th Meeting of States Parties in November last year, Thailand is glad that this Workshop has highlighted the importance of this issue and has timely dedicated a session for this purpose. Such exchange of views and discussion is invaluable to achieve a common understanding on the matter. Thailand wishes that our deliberations in this session today will help establish a course for this agenda leading up to the Second Review Conference.

Let me share Thailand's experience on this matter. In reiterating that humanitarianism has long been at the forefront of Thailand's foreign policy, it is undeniable that our mine action mission is a humanitarian one. Yet, Thailand also recognises the very important linkage between mine clearance and socio-economic development. We maintain a dual-approach commitment to the eradication of

landmines, that is, to save innocent lives and also to support socio-economic development in mine-affected areas.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand's endeavour to implement the Convention's obligations has been faced by many limitations, especially in the area of mine clearance. Over the past years, Thailand has predominantly relied on domestic financial resources for its demining operations. But international assistance and support, especially technical and financial, have been sparse. Thus, considering the global financial situation, Thailand's major challenge today is, thus, how to mobilize appropriate resources, particularly international assistance to clear mine-affected areas in the pursuit of socio-economic development.

It is indeed the responsibility of States Parties to do its utmost to implement the Convention's obligations. Yet, Thailand believes that the involvement of the international community is essential. With dozens of States Parties competing for external financial support, Thailand understands that it is not an easy task for us, or any other States Parties to secure such assistance. So, the big question is thus, what measures can be taken by the international community to assist States Parties in its twin process of demining and development?

Mr. Chairman,

As a committed Convention-implementing State Party, Thailand has a couple things on its wish list for consideration leading up to the Second Review Conference. Apart from assistance from donor states and relevant mine action organizations, Thailand wishes to see greater involvement from other international agencies, especially development agencies. After all, the pursuit of total eradication of landmines is the primary step toward socio-economic development. In other words, demining and development are just two sides of the same coin. Thus,

international development agencies should be encouraged to be increasingly involved in the global mine clearance agenda.

Thailand is well aware of the certain limitations of financial assistance provided through bilateral means. Thinking out of the box, a type of central funding mechanism or trust fund, apart from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, under the Convention may be worth considering in order to provide equitable financial assistance to States Parties in need. This may help implementing States Parties maintain long-term assistance from a reliable source as well as equitable opportunity in the acquisition of external support.

Mr. Chairman,

At this 10-year juncture, it is apparent that great and satisfying efforts have been expended in the implementation of the Convention. Yet, there remains a lot to be done. Thailand firmly believes that in order to effectively implement the Convention, international cooperation and assistance from States Parties in the position to do so as well as from relevant international agencies are key to the success of our, as well as other States Parties' demining operations.

Thailand stands ready to cooperate with the international community.
