

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Vienna, Austria | 19 December 2017

Agenda 11(c): Cooperation and Assistance

Mr. President,

The work of this committee has enabled important achievements to be made in mine action. We thank the Committee for its reports and preliminary observations that shed light on challenges and opportunities in cooperation and assistance.

Thailand sees merit in the committee's efforts in mapping needs and challenges of States Parties, particularly in the conduct of mine clearance operations and victim assistance, through continued dialogue with the Committee and reflection in States' article 7 transparency reports. With this information, an individualized approach can be established to better connect States with the donor community.

Mr. President,

Although Thailand is among the top countries in the world with government funding towards its own mining

programme, we continue to appreciate and welcome international support.

Recently, we received support in the form of equipment and capacity building. For instance, the United State has provided training on EOD disposal and Technical and Non-Technical Survey, and has kindly donated 22 mine detectors and 2 Mine Wolf Mine-Clearance Machines together with training on their operation for our staff. The Japanese government has also been a generous financial supporter via the Thai Civilian Deminer Association, as well as the Norwegian government through the Norwegian's People Aid. We would like to also thank the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) for the continued technical support on mine clearance.

Mr. President,

Apart from receiving support, Thailand has continuously been a contributor. For instance, we have worked with our neighboring countries to provide training such as on EOD disposal and sustainable prosthetic leg making. Moreover, we continue to voluntarily contribute 10,000 Swiss Francs annually to the budget of the Convention's Implementation Support.

Mr. President,

With much to offer, we are therefore seeking a two year term membership on the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance. Our focus will include promoting synergies across Committees and related Conventions as well as enhancing the existing partnership among multi-stakeholders with a view to render cooperation and deliver assistance in a more integrated manner. We will also consider new and alternative forms of assistance, including regional cooperation, public-private partnership, and tools such as the Platform for Partnerships. The States Parties' kind support towards our candidature is highly appreciative.

Thank you.

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