

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION – THAILAND

**COMMITTEE ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE**  
(Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden and Thailand)  
Intersessional Meetings  
22-24 June 2021

1. The Committee welcomes the submission by Thailand of updated information on its victim assistance activities. Based on the information provided, the Committee presents the following preliminary observations.

#### **Mine casualties**

2. The Committee observed that Thailand reported a total of 799 mine survivors. The Committee would welcome further information, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, on the 799 mine survivors and additional information on new casualties in 2020, if any.

#### **VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACTIONS:**

**Strengthen partnerships and integrate victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks and designation of a government entity to oversee the integration (Action #33 and also Actions #1 and #6)**

3. The Committee observed that Thailand reported progress in integrating victim assistance commitments into broader national frameworks, and stated that the integration process has been led by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in accordance with their respective mandates.

**Develop and implement measurable, realistic and time-bound national action plan (Actions #33 and also Action #2)**

4. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Thailand reported implementing the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan for Health Care System Development for Persons with Disabilities and the 2017-2021 National Development Plan for the Quality of Life of the Disabled to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. The Committee would welcome receiving electronic copies of the two Strategic Plans.

**Removing barriers including physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services (Action #33)**

5. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Thailand reported efforts with regards to physical accessibility of services such as public buses, train stations and subsidised public transports and taxis.
6. The Committee would welcome further information on progress which may have been made in the removal of social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers.

**Applying multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Action #34)**

7. The Committee observed that Thailand reported addressing the needs of mine victims in a holistic and integrated approach, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and that necessary policies and legal frameworks, such as the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Acts (2007 & 2013), have been enacted in relation to health, education, employment, development and poverty, with an emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Establish or strengthen of a centralised database / national information management system (Action #35 and also Action #9)**

8. The Committee observed that Thailand reported having a database that consolidates information on persons with disabilities including mine survivors and information is disaggregated by types of impairments such as visual impairment, hearing or communication impairment, learning impairment and autism, as well as by gender, age, disability, occupation, income and location of persons with disabilities including those whose impairments have been caused by mines. The database is managed by the DEP and information is made available online.
9. Thailand further reported that the information about mine victims collected by TMAC are shared with the ministries of interior, public health, and labour to provide them with allowances, rehabilitation support, healthcare, vocational trainings and assistance for employment opportunities.

**Access to first aid and ongoing emergency medical care (Action #36)**

10. The Committee observed that Thailand reported the availability of an efficient emergency response, delivered by the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) under the MOPH, including by training villages in some communities on basics of first aid, and by providing rapid response and rescue, to ensure casualties reach the appropriate healthcare centres in a timely manner.
11. Thailand reported that, in order to ensure equal access to health care, it has adopted the Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP) policy which ensures that mine victims receive the necessary medical treatment free of charge.

**Developing national referral mechanism (Action #37)**

12. The Committee observed that Thailand reported using a patient referral system among hospitals to facilitate patients' access to appropriate treatment. Thailand further reported that referrals are made by 2,841 Persons with Disabilities Service Centres across Thailand in 77 provinces. The Committee recalls that in 2020, Thailand reported having a directory of services which was developed and made available online by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP), under the MSDHS.

**Access to rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, assistive devices and occupational therapy (Action #38)**

13. The Committee observed that Thailand reported that mine victims that have acquired impairments and registered with the DEP are entitled to rehabilitation services, expense for medical treatment, equipment cost and assistive devices for their physical, mental, emotional, social and behavioural rehabilitation, as well as for their intellectual and learning abilities, in accordance with the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Acts of 2007 and 2013 .

**Access to psychological and psychosocial services including peer-to-peer support (Action #38)**

14. The Committee observed that Thailand reported the availability of psychological support in accordance with the national Acts, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation service, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and peer-to-peer support programs.

15. The Committee would welcome further information in this regard including on availability of outreach rehabilitation and availability of occupational therapy, physiotherapy and peer to peer support and efforts to establish peer support services within Thailand's national healthcare system.

#### **Access to social and economic inclusion services, including in rural and remote areas (Action #39)**

16. The Committee observed that Thailand reported on steps taken to meet the social and economic needs of mine victims, along with other persons with disabilities, by:

- Ensuring access to special and mainstream education;
- Providing vocational rehabilitation, services, labour protection, measures for employment opportunity, promotion of independent occupation, media services, technology facilities and any other assistance to support their work and occupation;
- Ensuring equal participation in social, economic and political activities in a full and efficient manner;
- Providing assistance to ensure that they have access to policies, plans, projects, activities, development, public services, products necessary for their livelihood, as well as legal assistance and provision of lawyers to represent in legal cases;
- Ensuring access to information, communication, telecommunication services, information and communication technology, and media;
- Making sure they have access to sign language interpreters;
- Providing the right to bring any guiding animal, guiding tools or equipment or assistive devices on any vehicles or in public places, and right to access public facilities without any additional charges or fees;
- Raising awareness on the rights of mine victims;
- Providing welfare allowances; and
- Adjusting housing environment, as well as access to caregivers and other welfare services.

#### **Taking measure for safety and protection of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies (Action #40)**

17. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Thailand reported implementing a Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities, and that the Service Centres for Persons with Disabilities were trained to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in case of disaster, in line with the Action Plan for Disaster Management. The Committee would welcome an electronic copy of the Disaster Management Plan for Persons with Disabilities.

18. The Committee would also welcome information on any measure undertaken to meet the specific needs of mine survivors in situations of risks and emergencies, such as the COVID-19 crisis.

#### **Strengthening inclusion and participation of mine victims and their representative organisations in all matters that affect them (Actions #41 and also Action #4)**

19. The Committee observed that Thailand reported that through the Social Development and Human Security Volunteers (SDHDV), communities have a platform to participate in activities carried out

by the government. Thailand reported that with the support of the SDHDV, efforts have been made to address community's social problems, strengthen government's efforts with private sector and increase community-based welfare.

20. The Committee would welcome information on the integration of mine victims in the SDHDV and its activities.

21. The Committee recalls that in 2020 Thailand reported that all persons with disabilities have the right to participate in social activities in accordance with Article 20 (4) of the Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act.

22. The Committee would welcome further information on progress made to strengthen inclusion and participation of the 799 mine survivors and their representative organisations in relevant policies and programmes in 2020.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS:**

##### **Demonstrate high levels of national ownership, including [...] by making financial and other commitments to implementation (Action #1)**

23. The Committee recall that in 2020, Thailand reported on the allocation of specific financial resources on an annual basis for rehabilitation, social and economic inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities through relevant ministries, provincial service centres and other author national agencies.

24. The Committee observed that Thailand reiterated its commitment to addressing the needs of mine survivors in accordance with the relevant national policy and legal frameworks, such as 2007 and 2013 Actions on the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the CRPD obligations.

##### **Ensure that the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men are considered (Action #3)**

25. The Committee observed that Thailand reiterated their non-discriminatory approach to victim assistance by ensuring mine survivors and other persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are provided with support regardless of their gender, age, disability, or socio-economic, cultural and political backgrounds.

26. The Committee would welcome further information on the measures in place, such as gender and diversity policies, to ensure application of the non-discriminatory approach.

##### **Challenges in implementation of Victim Assistance Commitments (Action #8)**

27. The Committee would welcome information on challenges faced by Thailand in meeting the needs and rights of mine victims, and any support it may require, including from the international community, to fulfil its victim assistance commitments under the Convention and the OAP.