

**Thailand's Intervention
at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meeting
“Matters related to the Mandate of the Committee on Victim Assistance”
20 June 2022**

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. Victim Assistance (VA) is one of the core pillars of the Mine Action, which plays an important role in reducing the humanitarian impact of landmines. With firm commitment to this issue, Thailand has joined the membership of the VA Committee on several occasions, most recently during 2020-2021. It was an honour for Thailand to be appointed as the Chair of the Committee in 2021.

2. We believe that victim assistance should be inclusive, non-discriminatory, gender-balanced and respects the victims' human rights. Under Thailand's chairmanship of the VA Committee in 2021, we prioritised synchronising and aligning victim assistance efforts among different treaty frameworks, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), outreach and expanding the narrative and thus participation of victim assistance activities, and also promotion of “victim assistance-oriented individualised approach.”

Mr. Chair,

4. Thailand puts the needs and rights of mine victims at the center of the prevention, preparedness, responses and rehabilitation measures at all levels of implementation. While implementing the policy, we have seen several challenges in providing assistance to the casualties amid the difficult conditions. Therefore, we wish to share our experiences on Thailand's holistic and rights-based approach on victim assistance.

5. *First*, we have integrated mine victim assistance programmes into our national policies and legal frameworks. The assistance provided by the Thai Government covers the moment the incident happens to rehabilitation and return to society. This is a lifelong process, and carried out by multiple agencies, working together. The Thai agencies concerned, including the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the National Institute for Emergency Medicine and the Thailand Mine Action Center, working together to provide necessary medical care, rehabilitation, psychological and social support. These sets of interconnected actions are in line with Action#34 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), to ensure the delivery of equal access to necessary assistance for mine victims.

6. *Second*, Thailand puts emphasis on enhancing accessibility measures on victim assistance. Our Universal Health Coverage System not only underpin health security for all Thais, but also ensure the highest attainable standard of medical treatment for mine victims. Most notable is the Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP) Policy, where mine victims with life-threatening conditions are given emergency patient status which is guaranteed free-of-charge access to necessary emergency medical care, which are in line with Action #36 of the OAP, to eliminate challenges of social determinants of health.

7. *Third*, we put our utmost efforts to ensure that mine victims with disabilities are entitled to equal opportunities under Thailand's Disability Empowerment Act, which is in line with the CPRD. There are over 3,143 service centres for people with disabilities (PWD), located in every province of Thailand to provide assistance and social support for PWD. As the COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered the challenges for PWD to access governmental services, Thailand is now focusing on increasing digital literacy of PWD to ensure their uninterrupted access to information and necessary services through digital platform. Thailand also ensures that its efforts to strengthen database of PWD, including mine victims, are in line with Action #35 of the OAP.

Mr. Chair,

8. Thailand wishes to reiterate its commitment towards the victim assistance obligation under the Convention, and is ready to cooperate with all State Parties and the VA Committee. We stand ready to share our best practices in implementing the policies to assist and protect the rights of mine victims and those vulnerable.

Thank you.

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