

Statement of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand
by Lt. Gen. Kanit Chomanan,
Director General of Thailand Mine Action Center
at the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional Meeting,
“Thematic and Panel Discussion: Making Every Effort count: Towards a successful 2025”
21 June 2022

Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

1. Since becoming a State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1997, Thailand has put its utmost efforts to fulfill the obligations under the Convention. The Royal Thai government has been in collaboration with its partners and stakeholders in order to achieve our mine-free goal.

2. After the second extension, the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) has been working with its utmost efforts to fulfill the Article 5 obligations. By the end of 2021, all the contaminated areas along Thailand-Myanmar Border and 4 more provinces in Thailand had become mine-free. As of March 2022, we have released and returned 98.55% per cent of the mine contaminated areas in Thailand back to its people, compared with the initial impact survey.

3. During this final stage of our operations, however, we have encountered formidable challenges, including high density of mines, the Covid-19 impact and problems with accessing the areas along the border, which have unfortunately led to our decision to request for the additional 3-year extension.

4. Throughout our operations, both success and challenges have become the lessons learned for us. Today, Thailand wishes to share with you the important factors we believe which contribute towards our relentless efforts to achieve a mine-free world.

5. First, Effective Planning and Utilisation of Technology

6. By effectively planning and constantly updating our Five-Year Work Plan, Thailand believes that this helps enable us to prepare all necessary human resources, budget, and equipment, and our cooperation with all partners throughout the second extension period. The planning phase includes application of new techniques and strategies, as well as restructuring human resources. The current structure of Thailand’s Humanitarian Mine Action Units has allowed each team to work in different locations, and be able to promptly move to another location as situations require, resulting in more efficient clearance progress.

7. The planning phase also include improving efficiency of the operations by utilisation of technology. Thailand focuses on improving our Information Management (IM) system, including utilising internal Cloud systems and Arc GIS. This allows our policy-makers to obtain more accurate information to make fact-based, accurate, and timely decisions, and the operational teams to operate based on promptly available and precise information.

8. Second, Continued Commitment by the Governments

9. The efforts to achieve the mine clearance goals cannot be succeeded without continued commitment by the governments. For Thailand, albeit the COVID-19 pandemic and economic slowdown, the Thai government has continued to provide a primary source of funding for the humanitarian mine operations.

10. The governments' commitment also need to extend towards Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA). In Thailand's case, we continue to address these issues in the most comprehensive manner, including by carrying out our MRE operations in parallel with survey, clearance and VA activities, in line with Section VI of the Oslo Action Plan.

11. Last but not least, Strengthening International Cooperation at All Levels

12. The international cooperation and assistance clearly has significant impact on our efforts towards achieving a mine-free world. The sharing of best practices and techniques as well as technologies transfer from one state to another could help make the mine clearance operation be carried out more effectively. Moreover, international funding given to both the governments and NGOs is also vital in expediting the demining operations. In this regard, Thailand appreciates the cooperation and assistance from the Governments of Japan, Norway, and the United States in our humanitarian mine action efforts.

13. International cooperation also helps create better mutual understanding and trust, necessary for fulfilling our mine clearance obligations. As Thailand's operations move closer to the borders, Thailand has put in efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation with our neighbouring countries, including Cambodia, where demining cooperation has been incorporated into different mechanisms. These include the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JC), Thailand – Cambodia General Border Committee (GBC), as well as the "Pilot Project" between the two countries. Thailand will continue to pursue these cooperation during the Three-Year Work Plan of the requested extension period.

14. Thailand's efforts to strengthen cooperation also go beyond the bilateral level. Thailand has been working with other ASEAN Member States under the framework of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) to establish the Guidelines and Action Plan on demining operations in the areas along the border, which we believe, will be beneficial for the efforts to strengthen our cooperation at the regional level. Thailand also continues to actively participate in this APMBC framework, as the current member of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance, after we joined the VA Committee as the Chair last year.

15. In closing, Thailand believes that achieving the mine-free world requires continued commitment from the States Parties, as well as cooperation from international partners. Thailand stands ready to work with all parties in the efforts to achieve a mine-free world. Please allow me to once again to reaffirm Thailand's commitment towards the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and our full support for the work of the Convention.

Thank you.

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