

Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
2nd Preparatory Meeting for the
3rd Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention
10 April 2014, 1000-1300 hrs.

Agenda item 5: Draft Maputo Action Plan

Mr. President-Designate,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to thank you and Ambassador Pedro Comissario for the leadership shown and the open and inclusive manner in which the Government of Mozambique has conducted the preparatory process leading up to the 3rd Review Conference in Maputo in June this year, which will provide us with a timely opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved, address remaining challenges and look to the future.

In this connection, Thailand is pleased to have contributed towards this process by being part of the Friends of the President and the drafting committee for the outcome documents.

Regarding the document at hand, the draft Maputo Action Plan, my delegation welcomes the overall proactive and action-oriented approach of the draft which should provide State Parties with a clear roadmap of what needs to be done during the next five years. At the same time, we concur with the sentiments already expressed that the action plan should be actionable and practical.

On specific issues, we appreciate in particular the importance attached to universalization and victim assistance, among other things.

The need for universalization cannot be overstated if we are to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world and put an end to the

suffering and casualties caused by such weapons. Here, we welcome and underscore the importance of inviting non-State Parties to participate in our meetings and activities, as appropriate.

On victim assistance, we are pleased to see references made to the issue of disability and would welcome more linkages between the mine action world and the disability world, one of the core issues discussed at the Bangkok Symposium on Cooperation and Assistance: Building Synergy towards Effective Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation held in Bangkok last year.

Let me stop here for the time being, Mr. President-Designate, and we will be making further comments later on under the relevant agenda items.

I thank you.

Agenda item 6: Proposed post-Third Review Conference machinery and meetings

Mr. President-Designate,

I wish to echo the views already expressed by earlier speakers that our implementation machinery is a means to an end, not an end in itself. As such, a new implementation machinery should be instituted only if it concretely adds value and improves our effectiveness and efficiency. Importantly, it should not lead to an amendment of the Convention itself.

My delegation would therefore welcome the establishment of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation with dedicated members which would help make work under the Article 5 process more effective.

We also welcome the proposal to create the Committee on Cooperative Compliance which, if it works as planned, would ensure a more consultative and cooperative approach to the issue of compliance.

As regards victim assistance and the enhancement of cooperation and assistance, my delegation concurs with proposals made by other delegations that they retain their committee status, with co-chairs, as is currently the case, instead of an experts' forum and co-facilitators, respectively, in order to underscore the importance they deserve and ensure a more structured overall machinery in line with other committees.

As for the special envoy on assistance to landmine victims, we have no objections to this proposal as such a person could help advocate and highlight the importance of this issue internationally and mobilize much needed support.

On the role of the MSP President, given its importance, we believe this requires careful consideration and would welcome more information about the changes proposed.

Lastly, on intersessional meetings, we concur that they should comprise both a thematic and preparatory element. Importantly, they should be held back to back with other related meetings, as done this year, in order to assist, in particular, delegations traveling from afar.

Thank you.

Agenda item7: Political declaration to be adopted at the Third Review Conference

Mr. President-Designate,

Regarding the political declaration, Thailand believes that it should recommit State Parties to the Convention. And while the declaration should be ambitious, setting ambitious goals, we must also make sure that it is truly a shared ambition and that the underlying spirit is one of shared responsibility.

In this regard, Article 6 of the Convention underlines the importance of international cooperation, and we believe that this cooperation should be for the benefit of all State Parties, be they recipients or donors, and that national circumstances are also taken into consideration. We therefore welcome the importance attached to partnerships and the spirit of cooperation highlighted in the draft declaration.

Lastly, while the declaration should reflect the political will of State Parties and set ambitious goals, it should also be achievable, taking into account developments on the ground. As State Parties renew their commitments, and work to fulfill their obligation, we therefore join others in expressing concern about specifying, in all outcome documents, an overarching 2025 deadline, which we believe warrants further careful deliberation so as to reach consensus on this issue.

Let me conclude, Mr. President-Designate, by thanking you, Ambassador Comissario, as well as Kerry and his team at the ISU for all the hard work done. Looking ahead, we look forward to actively participating the 3rd Review Conference in June.

Thank you.