

Intervention by Dr. Pairoj Boonsirikamchai
Deputy Secretary-General, National Institute for Emergency Medicine,
Ministry of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand
during the Review of the Operation and Status of
the Convention: (d) Assisting the Victims
at the Maputo Review Conference on a Mine-Free World
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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

To assist landmine survivors, Thailand has adopted a holistic and integrated approach to victim assistance. Care for landmine victims is integrated into the broader legal framework, national plans and programmes for persons with disabilities, and is implemented under the umbrella of universal health coverage for all.

Our support of mine victims is strongly connected to our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which Thailand ratified in 2008. Other legislations that guarantee the rights and benefits of persons with disabilities include 1) the National Health Security Act 2) the Emergency Medical Service Act 3) The Persons with Disabilities Education Act. Thus, victim assistance from emergency care to long term rehabilitation is guaranteed.

To further empower persons with disabilities in local community through decentralization of essential services by delegating power to the local administrative authorities, the Persons with Disabilities' Quality of Life Promotion Act, which provides a comprehensive legal and institutional framework regarding rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities, was revised in 2013. The Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was also established to provide funding to local persons with disabilities organizations and interest-free seed funding for occupational development for persons with disabilities.

Mr. President,

Thailand now focuses on creating strong local networks for the empowerment of persons with disabilities, including through Community-Based Rehabilitation and the establishment of Community Learning Centers to cover all areas of Thailand. Volunteer networks have been strengthened through the work of the National Office for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NEP).

Following the Second Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia, Thailand's subcommittee on victim assistance translated the Cartagena Action Plan into the Master Plan on Victim Assistance 2012 – 2016 was drafted with five key strategies 1) Database management 2) Physical and psychological rehabilitation 3) Economic and social reintegration 4) Participation of landmine survivors in assistance programmes 5) Inclusive assistance and cooperation. We look forward to incorporate the Maputo Action Plan into our future Master Plan on Victim Assistance.

We believe that we have come a long way and have been successful in the provision of care for landmine victims. We are also proud to report that the number of victims from landmines over the past few years has seen a decreasing trend especially among Thai civilians. We will continue to provide the best possible care for all our landmine survivors and work tirelessly so that new cases do not occur. We also stand ready to render assistance to our friends and partners in sharing of experiences, learnings, expertise and training.

Mr. President,

Thailand remains fully committed to providing the best possible victim assistance programs to land mine survivors and empowering them to be fully reintegrated into society.

Thank you. Mr. President.
