

Intervention on “Toward the Second Review Conference”
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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

From Ottawa to Nairobi and going to Cartagena, we have come a long way, not in terms of mileage, but the efforts that we, State Parties to the Mine Ban Convention, have put in towards ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. While we should be proud of the collective achievements so far, undeniably there is yet more to be done in the process of banning this inhumane weapon. The upcoming Second Review Conference should serve as a benchmark for the future direction in meeting our obligations under the Convention in all respects.

Over the past decade since the Convention was entered into force, Thailand has dedicated its restricted resources and personnel to do her utmost in meeting those obligations. Although the road we have traveled is not smooth, we see these challenges as opportunities to highlight the priorities and expectations for the future of the Mine Ban Convention. I hope that the various regional workshops leading to the Second Review Conference, as well as this Bangkok Workshop, would set the stage for Cartagena.

Please allow me to share Thailand’s views on how we can and should embark upon the next decade of the Convention. At Cartagena, Thailand believes it is an opportune time for States Parties to mark the

collective achievements by renewing their political will to the Convention. This can be done by encouraging high level representation at the Second Review Conference, which would in turn, help further enhance awareness on and even further promote the Convention. Just like renewing vows in a marriage, the renewal of political will will be demonstrative of the strong commitment States Parties maintain in the Mine Ban Convention.

Accordingly, to follow through the objectives of the Convention, there should also be a renewal of partnership and cooperation amongst States Parties and the international community. No mine-affected country should carry out their obligations single-handedly. The international community must demonstrate its obligations to the Convention especially in terms of financial and technical resources to assist States Parties in need of assistance. This is the collective spirit of the Mine Ban Convention.

Most importantly, at Cartagena, we will be able to revise how we would like progress to be measured in the future. We may need to re-formulate indicators to measure progress in order to reflect the true context of each mine-affected country. There should not necessarily be a one-size-fits-all indicator. We must ensure that achievements made by each State Party receive merit on the basis of its own domestic context.

In conclusion, I hope that the discussions we have had here at the Bangkok Workshop would serve as foods for thought for the Second Review Conference. Indeed, at Cartagena, we should not only “review” but look beyond and plan ahead into the future. I am certain that we can achieve anything we set out to do if we join hands and act collectively. It is with hope that, despite the mounting challenges, our success to date would encourage non-States Parties to join us in the course of global humanitarian demining.
