



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 9 (d) on
Compliance
Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mister Vice-President

We would like to thank the Committee on Cooperative Compliance for their work. The Netherlands is deeply concerned with the use of anti-personnel landmines by government forces of Myanmar and Syria and non-state armed groups in Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, and Yemen and the great safety threats this causes for civilians. The use of these mines disrupts human security and socio-economic development in affected states.

In particular, the Netherlands would like to mention its strong concern about the use of mines of an improvised nature. These mines pose a great risk to internally displaced people in countries like Syria, Iraq and Libya and for those wishing to return home. Especially worrying is the increased use of these mines of an improvised nature in urban settings. To ensure affected civilians can return safely to their homes and communities, civil-military cooperation is needed to clear not only military strategic positions but also houses, schools and markets.

The Netherlands is also concerned about the use of anti-personnel landmines, which kill and maim without distinction, in Myanmar. The use of landmines has been reported at numerous locations along the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. As a result, thousands of Rohingya fleeing for other atrocities are at risk,

whilst trying to find safety and security. It is concerning that those who are already at risk are threatened even more by the use of mines.

Additionally, the ongoing allegations of the use of anti-personnel mines used in Yemen are worrying. Especially the recent reports of the use of landmines by the Houthi-forces are deeply concerning. It is important to ensure that the different actors have a clear understanding of the threat these anti-personnel mines pose to the millions of Yemeni's already in perilous situations. The Netherlands hopes that the engagement and dialogue between the Committee on Cooperative Compliance and the Yemeni authorities continues to occur after fruitful discussion held in 2017.

The use of anti-personnel landmines by government forces or non-state armed groups severely threatens human security. As a strong proponent of fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals, the Netherlands underlines the importance of ensuring a mine free world as a necessity for reducing all forms of violence. If we do not address this problem, everyone remains vulnerable. Women collecting water, children playing, men working in fields. The Netherlands is fully committed to ensuring the safety of all people under threat of these anti-personnel mines.

Thank you, Mister Vice-President.