



Statement of the Netherlands
on the
Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
Intersessionals, June 22nd 2021
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Madam Chair.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Netherlands would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Allow me to start by complementing you on your leadership as Chair of the Committee, and thanking all the panellists for their insightful presentations.

Apart from the political support it provides to the Convention, the Netherlands is keen to financially support mine action worldwide with a view to save lives, improve livelihoods and to contribute to development and stabilisation efforts. This support is also important with a view to our own obligations as a States Party to this Convention, where countries in a position to do so provide assistance to reach our common objective of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

The Netherlands has a long record of funding mine action in different parts of the world and will continue to do so. Multi-annual planning of financing is important to enable implementers to operate in a cost-effective way and to achieve better results. The Netherlands calls on other States Parties to implement multi-annual programmes with a view to reaching our goal in the most efficient way.

The heart of our Mine Action efforts is our multiannual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme, which is valued at EUR 51 million for the period 2020 – 2024. The programme has funding reserved for nine countries, namely Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, South Sudan, Somalia and Lao PDR. It also funds activities aimed at strategic policy influencing, innovation, and capacity building. Moreover, the programme comprises a contingency allocation that is available for emergency situations, innovative activities and gap financing. Our Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme has a strong focus on both gender and capacity building and aligns strongly with action item 45 of the Oslo Action Plan.

We also support the work of UNMAS through an annual voluntary unearmarked contribution of EUR 3 mln, and through UNDP we support the Lebanon Mine Action Center with capacity building.

Next to our efforts to rid the world of landmines, we have assisted and will continue to support the multilateral framework of the Convention through our EUR 40,000 annual support to the ISU, and EUR 10,000 to its sponsorship programme. We are proud to have initiated the new Cooperation and Assistance Fund and will donate EUR 10,000 to the Fund. We hope that the Fund will enable mine-affected countries to share experiences and knowledge and thus learn from each other.

As we see that the more privileged part of the world is now gradually coming out of the crisis COVID-19 has created, we must not forget that for many countries in the world this struggle is far from over. For a long time yet to come, those countries will have to dedicate a considerable part of their efforts to combating COVID-19.

At the same time it is not unlikely that support for mine action will be under pressure in the coming years due to a decline in funds available for international cooperation as a result of the economic fall-out of the pandemic. We call upon other States Parties in a position to do so to continue providing assistance and to not decrease their support for mine action. Especially in times like these, it is an

impediment for all the different stakeholders to unify and not to let the new reality weaken our aspiration for a mine free world.

In order to fulfill this aspiration, the Netherlands is committed to continue to cooperate and provide assistance to those States Parties that need support in meeting their commitments under the Convention, as well as to a number of affected non-States Parties.

Thank you, Madam Chair.