



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Netherlands  
on the  
Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**

**20<sup>MSP</sup>, November 2022  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Thank you Mr Chair.

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

Next week will mark 25 years since the signing of the Convention began in Ottawa. Since then, more than 80% of the world's countries have joined what has become one of the most universalized treaties and is almost undisputed.

The success of the Convention is not only marked by the large number of states party to it, but even more by the dozens of countries that managed to get rid of the mines on their territory and that have declared completion. Some of them have managed to do so on their own, others were assisted by donors in a common effort to accomplish a safer world. Millions of landmines have been destroyed, countless people have been instructed on the risks of mines and consequently many accidents were avoided. Survivors have been supported to regain their lives. Here, the Netherlands has always been a loyal partner keen to financially support mine action worldwide with a view to save lives, improve livelihoods and to contribute to development and stabilisation efforts.

Unfortunately, the road to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention has not only been paved with successes. Ongoing and newly emerged conflicts in the Middle East, Northern Africa, the Sahel and most recently in Ukraine have created

setbacks and presented complications such as the increased use of IED's, mass contamination with UXO and ERW and new types of landmines such as the ones we see in Ukraine. With our 56 million Euros Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme, the Netherlands is contributing to addressing these endeavours by contributing to mine action in countries such as Libya, Iraq, South Sudan, Somalia and of course Ukraine.

Some countries experienced setbacks, like Guinea-Bissau, that already had declared completion in 2012 but was confronted with newly discovered contamination and had to submit a request for extension under article 5 at the last Intersessionals, where Guinea-Bissau's specific situation was highlighted under the individualized approach. With pleasure, the Netherlands can announce that we will contribute 800,000 Euros to Guinea-Bissau's efforts to definitively get rid of the mines.

In order to increase the added value of Mine Action, we are progressively seeking to program on the nexus between Mine Action and other disciplines. One recent example is our contribution to a programme in Senegal's Casamance region where mine action meets peace building and community development initiatives.

Lastly, in an attempt to foster the mutual sharing of experiences and knowledge among mine-affected countries, last year we initiated the new Cooperation and Assistance Fund under the APMBC. This year, we repeated our donation of 10,000 Euros to the Fund and expect to see the first exchange visits happening soon. We call on mine-affected countries to inquire with ISU about the options offered by this fund.

Mr Chair,

The fruits that 25 years of mine action under the Convention have given are very reassuring and we should continue undaunted in our efforts to accomplish our common goal of a world free of landmines.

Thank you.