



Statement of the Netherlands
on
Article 5 Implementation
2023 Intersessional Meetings of the States parties
To the 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.

At the 20th Meeting of States Parties (20MSP) held last November, Belgium submitted a paper on the Article 5 Extension Process. In response, the Meeting invited the incoming Committee on Article 5 Implementation to evaluate the process and challenges associated with Article 5 extension requests. The Committee was given the task to determine whether there is common ground for strengthening the process. The Netherlands welcome the announcement by the Article 5 Committee to report on its proceedings at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties (21MSP). We believe a revision of the process is much needed, especially considering that up to 22 extension requests are expected within the next two years.

Long-term extensions that are not founded on an accurate and well-thought-out action plan are ultimately not beneficial to anyone. Affected countries, as well as potential donors, will lack focus and lose their sense of urgency, leading to a slowdown in the clearing process that ultimately makes a subsequent extension request inevitable. Instead, a well-balanced extension request based on a sound action plan will result in an adequate extension period and eventually a higher success rate.

Now is the time for full commitment and prompt actions to allow all relevant stakeholders to thoroughly discuss and agree on an improved extension process, thus enabling the Committee to present its conclusions and recommendations at the Twenty-first Meeting of States Parties. In this respect, it might be helpful to organize inclusive and transparent consultations well in advance of the 21MSP, perhaps September would be a convenient time for such consultations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.