



Statement of the Netherlands
under Agenda Item 5 b of the
First Preparatory Meeting
for the Fourth Review Conference
2019 Intersessionals meetings of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mr President,

We would like to thank you, firstly, for the work you and your team have put forth in your preparations for the Fourth Review Conference, including this meeting. We have great faith in your ability to organize a sound and fruitful conference where the international community will make progress on making the world mine free. We are very much looking forward to discuss the contents of the Oslo Action Plan and hope for valuable contribution from all the stakeholders.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Netherlands would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

With regard to the Oslo Action Plan, the Netherlands would like to see three specific points included that we believe will help to reach our common goal of a mine free world.

First, the Netherlands believes it is important that the international community, specifically State Parties that are able to provide financial assistance, rethink their current modalities of financing. The Netherlands is a strong supporter of multi-

annual funding. It has shown that this type of funding increases efficiencies and greater economies of scales that allow mine action organisations to have greater value for their money. We believe that a greater call for implementing such financing in the Oslo Action Plan is necessary. Further, we also believe that the international community should be open for other means of financing. One of the main issues facing the mine action sector is a lack of funding. We should look beyond the current financing mechanisms and find ways of increasing the total amount available to carry out the different national action plans and strategies of affected states. The Netherlands deems it important that the Oslo Action Plan calls for an increase in funding through different mechanisms.

Second, the Netherlands would like to see a call to action to reduce the threat that mines of an improvised nature pose to a mine free world. Considering that most of the newly reported contamination of anti-personnel mines is due to these types of indiscriminate weapons, it is necessary to have a common understanding on how to address this problem. Although great progress has been made in the last years, including the update of the International Mine Action Standards, we believe further standardization of definitions and actions are necessary to alleviate the damages these devices create. Only then will the international community be able to provide the best assistance to countries affected by these improvised devices.

Lastly, the Netherlands would like to make a proposal to further improve the implementation machinery of the Convention. In general, we believe it functions very well, but we see a merit for some minor adjustments. We are preparing a non-paper with a proposal to increase the mandate of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance, to allow it to also deal with issues concerning the general status and operation of the Convention. We have noticed a number of ad-hoc cross-cutting issues that have come up in the recent years, such as financial problems, relating to structural arrears, or the need to improve the method of reporting. Issues pertaining to the general status and operation of the Convention are currently dealt with by the President alone. We believe, as the relative workload of the Cooperative Compliance Committee is lower than that of the other Committees, it may be

helpful for the President if he/she can draw on the assistance of the Members of this Committees when dealing with some of the examples just mentioned. Any interested States in joining hands on this proposal are more than welcome to let us know.

We hope that these points will be taken into account when drafting the draft Action Plan. The Netherlands will submit a document to the ISU with more elaboration on these matters. We look forward to a fruitful discussion regarding these issues.

Thank Mr. President.