



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 7 (a) on the
Universalisation
Fourth Review Conference of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mister President,

As this is the first time the Netherlands takes the floor, we would like to thank you, Ambassador Brattskar, and your team on all the hard work you put in organising and preparing this Fourth Review Conference. We have been very satisfied with the lead up to this Conference and how you have brought different stakeholders together in a unifying way.

Ever since the inception of the Ottawa Treaty, the Netherlands has been a keen supporter for ridding the world of anti-personnel landmines. Since the Third Review Conference, much progress has been made and we express our gratitude to everyone who worked hard in achieving this progress.

[UNIVERSALIZING THE CONVENTION]

Nonetheless, the fight for a mine free world is not over. It is because of this fight, we are gathered in Oslo to ensure progress is made in the next five years. The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention remains a vital and essential multilateral tool for achieving a safer world. With three States Parties added to the Convention since the Third Review Conference, we are hopeful for further universalization of the Convention. Nonetheless, 33 countries are not a party to the Convention and we urge these states to follow the example set by the 164 States Parties.

We also would like to emphasise that the Convention can only work with the support of other multilateral conventions and tools, such as the UNSG's Disarmament Agenda, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the recent UN Mine Action Strategy. It is because of this multilateral system that we can work towards a mine free world.

[OSLO ACTION PLAN]

In this regard, the Netherlands would like to make some remarks about the plan that lays out the groundwork for the progress under this framework: the Oslo Action Plan.

First, every State Party should be capable of dealing with the threats that anti-personnel mines pose, whether they be mines laid in the ground decades ago or improvised ones being used more recently. As such, we believe it is essential that the importance of national and local capacity building is included in the Oslo Action Plan. A true mine free world can only be achieved when each and every country has the capacity to deal with any contamination in their territory.

Second, considering there is still a huge funding gap to realistically reach the goal of a mine free world by 2025, the Netherlands acknowledges that there is a need to explore other ways of increasing the budget available for mine action activities. We therefore commend the work of the President to include action items regarding this issue in the Oslo Action Plan, such as exploring alternative or innovative financing.

And third, each and every action we initiate should take the needs and wants of different groups into consideration. Women, girls, boys, and men are affected in different ways by anti-personnel mines. This includes providing mine risk reduction and education tailored to the specific needs, disaggregate data by gender and age, and having gender-balanced clearance teams. All of these considerations should be part of the Oslo Action Plan.

Let me conclude by stating that the Netherlands is fully committed in achieving a successful outcome of the Review Conference and working toward a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Thank you Mister President.