



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 7 (e) (i) on
Cooperation and Assistance
Fourth Review Conference of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mister President,

In the years leading up to this Review Conference, record amounts of assistance has been provided to mine affected states. It shows the commitment of all the different stakeholders to rid the world of the indiscriminate weapons landmines are. We support the actions formulated in the Oslo Action Plan concerning how to proceed with further assistance in mine action and our Article 6 obligations.

The Netherlands is supportive of recent initiatives, such as the Individualised Approach and the National Mine Action Platforms, taken by the community to increase the effectiveness and transparency in assistance and cooperation in the field of mine action. Regarding the National Mine Action Platforms, we feel that such platforms should only be used as coordinating bodies for cooperation and assistance in-country and not become a substitute for the work some of the National Mine Action Authorities are doing.

In addition, we value the Action Plan's recognition of the importance of gender mainstreaming in mine action. Anti-personnel mines affect people regardless of sex, age, and gender. It remains important, however, to be aware that they may affect people differently. We therefore continue to advocate for the inclusion of mine action in actions related to the implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325. We

stand behind any efforts made to ensure inclusivity within the mine action sector and its activities carried out. The Netherlands actively promotes a gender-based approach in its own mine action activities in order to ensure increased levels of safety in a tailor-made way for *all* people.

Apart from the support it provides to the Convention, the Netherlands is keen to financially support mine action worldwide with a view to saving lives, improving livelihoods and contributing to development and stabilisation efforts. This support is also important with a view to our own obligations as a States Party to this Convention, namely under Article 6, where countries in a position to do so pledged to provide assistance to reach our common objective of an anti-personnel mines free world.

We have a long record of funding many projects in different parts of the world and we 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 to reach our ambition for 2025 in the most efficient way.

The Netherlands provides funding to our partners The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group and Danish Church Aid via our multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme for a total amount of 45 million euros for the four-year period of 2016-2020. These resources will be dedicated to mine-clearance, survey, risk education, victim assistance and local capacity building of mine action authorities in the following affected countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, South-Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Colombia, Somalia, Kosovo, Ukraine, Libya, Mali and Yemen and in the Palestinian Territories. This year, the Netherlands also provided emergency response funding in the Aarsal region in Lebanon and capacity development activities in Yemen.

The Netherlands further provides an annual unearmarked contribution of 3 million euros to the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund. This year, the Netherlands has also

pledged an earmarked contribution of 3 million euros to UNMAS' activities in Iraq. Lastly, we also support the ISU and the APMBC Sponsorship Programme with multi-annual funding.

As our current program ends in the summer of 2020, we aim to start the new program on September 1st 2020. We will built in the possibility of contingency funding within the new program that will allow for more flexible funding. Part of the funding will also be reserved for innovation, policy influencing, or capacity building activities. We encourage all interested parties to write in for the tender of this program that will open up in the spring of 2020.

The Netherlands remains committed to fulfil the aspiration to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025. However, we do acknowledge that this aspiration is hard to reach with regular funding streams. As such, we need to look for alternative and innovative ways to increase the total amount of funding available. 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 affected non-States Parties, we need to explore all options to increase this assistance.

Thank you Mister President.