



**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
8th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster
Munitions, agenda item 7.(e) Cooperation and Assistance**

Geneva, 4 September 2018

Mr. President,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

We would like to thank the Coordinators for International Cooperation and Assistance, Australia and Peru, for all their work.

As one of the largest humanitarian donors worldwide, assistance for clearance of cluster munitions and mines remains an important policy priority for the Netherlands.

We believe in the power of innovation in the field of international cooperation and assistance. One example of such innovation is the excellent concept of country coalitions, as devised by the German Presidency of 7MSP.

Another example of innovation pertains to financing. As many in the room may know, since 2012 the Netherlands has been committed to multi-annual financing of mine action operators. These operators are selected via a tender procedure.

In 2016, our Minister allocated 45 million Euros for humanitarian mine action and cluster munition clearance over the period 2016-2020, following a successful tender program. Our implementing partners are Mines Advisory Group, the Halo Trust and DCA.

These organizations have been working with our funding on projects in Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, the Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.

In addition, we contribute 3 million Euros per year to UNMAS in unearmarked core funding.

In an effort to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention, the Netherlands also supports the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM

with a contribution of 50,000 Euros annually since 2015, adding up to a total commitment of 250,000 Euros for a period of five years.

As regards the Convention's machinery, we would be keen to continue our contribution as a Member of the Coordination Committee. We therefore put forward our candidature for co-coordinator for International Cooperation and Assistance. In this capacity, we hope to do our utmost to connect those states that have a need for international assistance in meeting their obligations under the Convention with the available resources and tools.

Thank you Mr. President.