

## **CCM – Cooperation and Assistance**

Madame President,

Assistance for clearance of cluster munitions and mines remains an important policy priority for the Netherlands. We have a long tradition in the field of providing assistance and cooperating with governments of states affected by cluster munitions and mines. Mine action and cluster munitions clearance activities are an integral part of the Dutch integrated post-conflict reconstruction policy.

As many of the States Parties here will know, in 2012 we decided to change the way in which we provide assistance. We had seen projects and organisations struggling to get the required funding each year to keep a project going. Moving away from subsidizing projects on an annual basis, we started with multi-annual financing. We set up a tender system. And we made 45 million Euro available for humanitarian demining and clearance of cluster munitions for four years between 2012 and 2016.

The results of this first multi-annual financing through the tender procedure were very positive. For example with regard to durability, many of the organizations we subsidise use local staff in order for them to build up a sustainable livelihood. Moreover, the organizations put much time in strengthening the local capacity by cooperating closer with the national authorities so as to strive to work autonomously in the future.

We have seen how multi-annual contribution through a tender procedure leads to greater transparency, more openness and clear communication on tender objectives, and on criteria for appraisal and allocation in advance. Such an approach will therefore improve the quality of the projects and we call upon other States Parties to adopt a similar method in their providing international assistance.

Madame President,

Following the successes of the tender procedure and the projects that it could sponsor, our Minister allocated another 45 million Euros for humanitarian mine action and cluster munition clearance earlier this year. Once again, these funds were opened via a tender procedure. This summer, the results were announced. We look forward to working with the selected partners Mines Advisory Group, the Halo Trust and Dan Church Aid. These organisations have received funding for projects in Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, the Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.

It is our intention to keep the state parties informed about further results in the future.

Thank you Madame President