

5 MSP Cluster Munitions Convention, 2 - 5 September San Jose, Costa Rica

Statement by the Netherlands

Co-operation and assistance

Mr President,

The Netherlands has a long tradition in providing assistance to and cooperating with governments of cluster munitions and mine affected areas and remains an important policy priority for the Netherlands.

As we saw projects and organisations struggling every year to get the required funding to keep a project going, in 2012 we made the decision to change the way in which we provide assistance. Instead of subsidising projects on an annual basis, we started with multi-annual financing. We set up a tender system via which we made 45 million Euro available for humanitarian demining and clearance of cluster munitions for four years between 2012 and 2016.

A multi-annual contribution through a transparent tender procedure leads to greater transparency, more openness and clear communication on tender objectives and criteria for appraisal and allocation on forehand. Gender for example is a central theme in the programs as security is not gender neutral.

Via the tender, we subsidise the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Handicap International, the Halo Trust, Dan Church Aid, and UNMAS. These organisations are active in humanitarian mine action and cluster munitions activities in Afghanistan, Cambodia, DRC, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, the Palestinian territories, Somalia, and South Sudan.

Mr President,

Recently we made 1,5 million euro extra available for clearance of explosive remnants and mines as part of a larger package of humanitarian aid of 6,5 million euro to the population of northern

Iraq. The clearance in these areas is being done by MAG and Handicap International.

Thank you Mr President.