



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**  
**at**  
**Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions,**  
agenda item 8a. Universalization

25 November 2020

By  
**H.E. Mr Robbert Jan Gabriëlse**  
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament  
and Disarmament Ambassador at large

Mr. President,

Please allow me to compliment you and your team for the excellent work you have done in the preparations of this second Review Conference. It surely was challenging but the solution to split the Conference into two parts will enable us to adopt all necessary decisions in order to continue the work of the CCM. You can be assured of my delegation's full support and engagement.

The Netherlands fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the EU, and we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

In 2015, we set an ambitious goal to have 130 States Parties to the Convention by 2020. Unfortunately we did not reach that goal. Nevertheless, four states acceded to the Convention since last year, bringing the total number of States Parties to 110 and 13 Signatories. We welcome the ratification of the Maldives, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Niue and Saint Lucia.

The 'ways forward' paper of the coordinators for universalization is a good initiative to provide a new impetus to our collective universalization efforts. Through mapping the different challenges that signatories and non-states parties face, we can find new ways to encourage signatories to prioritize their national ratification processes and to promote adherence to the Convention and its norms by stepping up the universalization efforts.

This second Review Conference offers us not only the opportunity to look back but also to look forward. The Review Document of the Dubrovnik Action Plan gives a good overview of the current status of the Convention while it also points out the challenges we still face in order to fulfil the objectives of and obligations under the Convention. We cannot sit back, because a lot of work has to be done if we want to free the world from cluster munitions by 2030. We are therefore pleased that the Lausanne Action Plan is a solid document that will be our guide for the coming 5 years.

Mr. President,

The continued use of cluster munitions highlights the urgency and relevance of our efforts. This year, again, these indiscriminate weapons have made hundreds of victims around the world, killing civilians, wrecking communities and destroying livelihoods; reminding us that our work is far from done.

The latest edition of the Cluster Munition Monitor, which provides invaluable documentation in this area, reports about the use of cluster munition in Libya and Syria and allegations of new use in Yemen and Kashmir. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the most recent reports of use in the Nagorno Karabach conflict.

Let me reiterate what I said the past few years: The Netherlands condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor.

We have done so, collectively, in the Dubrovnik Declaration and in the Political Declaration which was adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties. We should, collectively, continue to do so.

Thank you Mr. President.