



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
8th Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Cluster
Munitions, agenda item 7.(b) Storage and Stockpile
Destruction**

Geneva, 3 September 2018

Mr President,

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union and would like to make some remarks in its national capacity.

For the Netherlands, the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on the 1st of August 2011. The legal obligations stemming from the CCM are implemented via the Dutch Act on Weapons and Munitions and the General Law on Customs.

Per its obligations under the Convention, the Netherlands has destroyed its cluster munitions stockpile over the past years, and has consistently been transparent about such destruction via its annual reports.

As has been stated in these reports, the Netherlands retains a number of cluster munitions for training and research purposes of the Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service and Directorate of Materiel.

We thank the Coordinators for Stockpile Destruction, Mozambique and Croatia, for all their work this year. We also thank them for the letter they sent to the Netherlands on the issue of the number of cluster munitions we retain for training and research purposes.

Upon investigating the issue we found that the remaining stockpile of cluster munitions has turned out to be larger than what is strictly needed for such training and research purposes. We included information on this in our annual Article 7 transparency report over the 2017 reporting period, which we submitted before the deadline this year. As indicated in the report, the Netherlands actively researched possible pathways to further reduce its stockpile in a timely, secure and environmentally safe way.

Further to the information provided, we would like to inform States Parties that recently we initiated the process to realize the destruction of a substantial part of our stockpile of cluster munitions for training and research purposes. The Ministry of Defence identified two-hundred 155 mm High Explosive Projectiles M483 and its submunitions for destruction, and has set in motion the necessary preparations to finalize this process. The 155 mm High Explosive Projectile is a cargo round. Each round delivers 88 grenades. With the destruction 17.600 submunitions will be destroyed, three-quarter of our stockpile of clustermunition for training and research purposes.

We thank the Coordinators for their oral clarification as to the communication with the Netherlands on this issue. Contrary to what the progress report suggests, the Netherlands clarified its position on the reduction of our stockpiles for training and research purposes through its national Article 7 transparency report of this year, and will continue to do so.

Thank you, Mr President