



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at
the 2022 Convention on Cluster Munition Intersessional
Meeting
on
Agenda items 3 (b) Storage and Stockpile Destruction and
agenda item 3 (c) Clearance and Destruction of Cluster
Munitions Remnants and Risk Education

Mr President,

Thank you for giving me the floor, my intervention is both related to agenda items 3b and 3c. Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to start by congratulating you on the assumption of the Presidency and thank you, your team, the ISU and the GICHD for organizing these intersessional meetings.

Our meeting takes place against the backdrop of reports of the continued use of cluster munitions in Russia's unwarranted, unprovoked, and illegal invasion of Ukraine. This premeditated intervention is a clear violation of international law and the sovereignty of Ukraine. The Netherlands condemns this invasion in the strongest possible terms. The reports of use of cluster munitions are deeply concerning and we condemn any use of cluster munitions by any actor.

Mr President,

The Netherlands supports the resumption of the intersessional meetings, especially because of the current and previous agenda item. We welcome the opportunity provided by these intersessional meetings to exchange more openly on the extension requests received and the progress made by state parties implementing art 3 and 4 obligations. In the view of my delegation, these exchanges increase the transparency of the extension process and provide all participants with an opportunity to engage. Moreover, it provides States Parties with the opportunity to learn more about the challenges that may arise in fulfilling the conventions time bound obligations, with a view of resolving the challenges faced.

The time bound obligations under article 3 and 4 of the Convention impose important milestones upon States Parties in our common endeavor for a world free of cluster munitions and cluster munition remnants. Completing these obligations are an important measure of success for the Convention. It is with this in mind that the negotiators of this Convention agreed in article 3.3 and 4.5 of the convention in the cases that an extension request is required, it is of the utmost importance that: *The requested extensions shall not exceed the number of years strictly necessary for that State Party to complete its obligations.* Moreover, in the Lausanne Action Plan actions 15 and 20, we

collectively agreed that extension requests: *are substantiated, ambitious and clear, contain detailed, costed annual work plans for the extension period.*

In ensuring that the time bound obligations under the convention are implemented in an expedient manner, it is thus important that extension requests are evidence-based and contain a solid work plan. Given that it takes time to do the necessary technical and non-technical surveys or to collect the necessary data for a high-quality work plan, interim extensions could provide a good way to monitor progress.

Mr President,

The two extension requests received so far illustrate the way in which short and interim extension periods can drive forward tangible progress towards a world free of cluster munitions and cluster munition remnants. While it is regretful that the good progress made by Bulgaria was disrupted due to an accident at one of the contracted facilities, it is clear that Bulgaria is close to completing its time bound obligations.

In similar vein, the Netherlands is pleased that Chile has now conducted the non-technical surveys to confirm the hazardous areas contaminated with cluster munition remnants. Not only has this led to a significant reduction in surface area to be cleared, but also provided the basis for an evidence-based workplan for its new extension request based on these surveys. The Netherlands wishes to complement both countries on their tangible progress towards fulfilling their time bound obligations. Such progress brings us one step closer to a world free of cluster munitions and cluster munition remnants.

In closing, the Netherlands wishes to also compliment the analysis groups on their work and engagement with the requesting states parties, aimed at ensuring high quality extension requests and analysis reports as a basis for our decision-making at 10MSP. In this context, the Netherlands like to echo the call by the coordinator to submit the extension request in line with the deadlines set by the convention, to allow sufficient time for their assessment by the analysis group and other stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr President