



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands
at
the 2022 Convention on Cluster Munition Intersessional
Meeting
on
Agenda items 3 (e) International Cooperation and
Assistance

Mr President,

In addition to the statement by the European Union, allow me to make the following remarks in my national capacity. The Netherlands has a long record of funding mine action in different parts of the world. Our current multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme is valued at 51 million Euro for the period 2020 – 2024. The programme funds mine action in nine countries, namely Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, South Sudan, Somalia and Lao PDR. Moreover, there is a 10 million Euro contingency allocation in the programme, which so far has been used for emergency situations and gap financing in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories.

In addition, we also support the work of UNMAS through an annual voluntary contribution of 5 mln Euro for 2022.

Our multi-annual planning of financing is important to enable operators to plan their projects in a cost-effective way and to achieve better results. The Netherlands calls on other States Parties to implement multi-annual programmes with a view to reaching our goal in the most efficient way.

Mr President,

Bearing in mind the many crises the world has seen over the last few years, it is not unlikely that support for mine action will be under pressure in the coming years due to a decline in funds available for international cooperation as a result of the economic fall-out of the pandemic. We call upon other States Parties in the position to do so to continue providing assistance and to not decrease their support for mine action. Especially in times like these, it is an impediment for all the different stakeholders to unify and not to let the new reality weaken our aspiration for a mine and cluster munition free world.

Given the scarcity of resources, the Netherlands strongly supports the set up of country coalitions. The results in Botswana, Montenegro and Lebanon, show the added value of these informal fora for the coordination between donors, operators and the affected state. We are pleased that the brochure on this concept is now available on the website of the convention, and encourage both affected states and donors to familiarize themselves with the concept. Donor states can play an important role in setting up these country coalitions, and support affected states in setting up a country coalition.

In closing, the Netherlands follows the developments on innovative financing for mine action with interest. We were pleased to participate in the Wilton Park conference and look forward to the further steps in developing this concept.

Thank you, Mr President.