

## **CCM – Cooperation and Assistance**

Madame President,

Assistance for clearance of cluster munitions and mines remains an important policy priority for the Netherlands and forms an integral part of the Dutch integrated post-conflict reconstruction policy. We have a long tradition in the field of providing assistance to and cooperating with governments and organisations regarding cluster munitions and mine affected areas.

In order to ensure and improve the quality of mine action and cluster munitions activities, the Netherlands favours multi-annual contributions through a transparent tender procedure. In our experience with these programmes, such a procedure leads to greater transparency, more openness and clear communication on tender objectives and criteria for appraisal and allocation on forehand.

This experience is grounded in the way in which the Netherlands has provided assistance since 2012, when we decided to change our methods. We saw projects and organisations struggling every year to get the required funding to keep a project going. Hence, we replaced the method we had used hitherto, of subsidizing projects on an annual basis, by multi-annual financing of organisations. We set up the Humanitarian Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme through a tender system, making available 45 million Euros for clearance of cluster munitions and humanitarian demining for four years between 2012 and 2016.

Via the programme, we subsidise the following organizations: the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Handicap International, the Halo Trust, and Dan Church Aid. These organizations are active in cluster munitions activities and humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the DRC, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mozambique, the Palestinian territories, Somalia, and South Sudan.

In determining the Dutch cluster munitions actions and mine action strategy, and in our appraisal of the projects that the Netherlands supports, gender is a central theme. Security, especially when it comes to cluster munitions and land mines, is not gender neutral. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the harm that these explosives cause, and the Netherlands continues to stress the importance of including a gender perspective in cluster munitions activities.

Madame President,

As I already mentioned, the Netherlands initiated multi-annual financing through the tender procedure in 2012. The first results of this project look promising. With regard to durability, many of the organisations we subsidise aim to use local staff in order for them to build up a sustainable livelihood. Moreover, the organisations put much time in strengthening the local capacity by cooperating closer with the national authorities as to strive to work autonomously in the future.

In this framework, we are evaluating our Humanitarian Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme. We are currently looking at possibilities to set up a new tender procedure for the period 2016-2020.

It is our intention to keep the state parties informed about further results in the future.

Thank you Madame President