



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**Tenth Meeting of State Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**agenda item 10 (b). Storage and Stockpile Destruction**

**31 August 2022**

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by thanking the co-coordinators for their work and presentation just now.

Following our statement at last year's Review Conference, I am pleased to share the latest developments regarding the military owned stockpiles of cluster munitions, retained in line with article 3.6 of the convention.

In previous meetings in the context of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, questions have been asked regarding the relatively large number of cluster munitions or its submunitions that the Netherlands still had in its possession for training purposes. In line with action 17 of the Lausanne Action Plan, the Netherlands continues to critically reflect on the number of submunitions retained for training purposes.

As a follow-up to the discussions in this forum, the Netherlands has taken several actions regarding the destruction of cluster munitions in recent years. As we have indicated in previous meetings, in 2019 a total of 200 projectiles 155 MM High Explosive M483-SER for Howitzer, containing 17.600 bomblets type M42/M46 have been demilitarized / destroyed at NAMMO in Norway. In 2020, this was followed by the shipment of another 16 cluster bombs, 58 warheads and 175 bomblets to Norway. All of these munitions and submunitions have been demilitarized by NAMMO. In normal circumstances, the Netherlands would have been physically present during the destruction of these munitions. However, due to the COVID restrictions in place at that time, we agreed to receiving only the certificate of destruction of NAMMO Norway as a confirmation that the munitions had been detonated in a safe way.

NAMMO is a certified demilitarization company with many nations as customer, so excellently fit for purpose. Within the Netherlands, demilitarization at large scale is nearly impossible and detonation of large quantities of ammunition is restricted due to national policy regarding environmental protection.

Mr President,

At this moment the Netherlands still possesses 1854 pieces of dismantled projectiles (explosive submunitions: 1348 pieces of M42 and 506 pieces of M46), which have been separated from the original cluster weapons. These explosive submunitions are retained in line with article 3.6 of the convention and will be appropriately consumed or phased out and in that way, they will steadily disappear from our national inventory.

We will keep States Parties informed on the progress, including through our national Article 7 transparency reports.

Thank you Mr. President.