



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 (e). International Cooperation and Assistance

13 September 2023

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to start by thanking the coordinators, Germany and Lebanon, for their work and the presentation they provided.

As one of the largest humanitarian donors worldwide, it remains an important priority for the Netherlands to provide assistance for clearance of cluster munitions and mines. Our current Mine Action and Cluster Munition Programme amounts to 57 million Euros for the period 2020-2024.

The program has allocated 51 million Euros to five demining NGOs: the Danish Demining Group, the HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion, the Mines Advisory Group and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. As part of this multi-annual funding, 10 million euros of contingency funding is reserved for situations that arise unexpectedly, such as humanitarian crises, or for innovative activities or to bridge funding. Through our programmes, the Netherlands supports mine action activities that take place in nine countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.

In response to Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine, the Netherlands has stepped up its efforts with regard to Ukraine given its – already – massive contamination of Ukraine's territory with landmines and cluster munitions. Therefore, the Netherlands has allocated an additional 20 million Euros to address the massive contamination in Ukraine.

Of this amount, 6 million Euros was used to top up our NGO Programme and 14 million Euros will be allocated to UNDP's Mine Action Programme. This new funding will be used to supply

the Ukrainian services with equipment and training, for risk education and for non-technical survey.

In addition, the Netherlands also supports the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). UNMAS has an important role in coordinating and conducting mine action activities, as well as the development of policies and standards that guide the mine action sector. By providing this support around the globe, the Netherlands sustains its support for a world free of the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war.

Mr. President,

Making most efficient use of the limited resources available for mine-action is a priority for the Netherlands. It is of particular importance that those states with needs for international assistance fulfill their time-bound obligations under the Convention. In order to have sustainable impact, it is vital to train the national mine action authorities. Therefore, the Netherlands holds the development of sustainable national capacity as an important pillar in the mine action projects that we fund.

Next to that, we would like to highlight that the concept of country coalitions has proven to be an excellent tool to meet the article 3 and 4 deadlines in an effective manner. The Netherlands is pleased that the concept of country coalitions has been taken up in the Lausanne Action Plan and welcomes further steps to implement action 42 of the action plan. In this context, we also draw attention to the brochure developed by the coordinators, aimed at building understanding amongst donors and states with time bound obligations. We strongly

encourage donors to consider supporting states with article 3 and 4 obligations in setting up a country coalition.

Thank you, Mr. President.