



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Eleventh Meeting of State Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

agenda item 10 (b). Storage and Stockpile Destruction

12 September 2023

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by thanking the coordinators for their work and presentation in the morning session. The Netherlands would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bulgaria and Slovakia for completing their obligations under Article 3 of the Convention.

Following our statements in recent years, 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 CCM, 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.

To be clear, The Netherlands does not have any cluster weapons in its possession. The Netherlands still possesses 1854 pieces of dismantled projectiles, 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. We recommend other States Parties to do so as well.

Thank you Mr. President.