



Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Intersessional Meetings 2025

7 – 8 April

**Agenda Item 3.J. Challenges and concerns raised in developments in the context of the
Convention and Humanitarian Disarmament at large**

i. Emerging challenges to the norm prohibiting cluster munitions

delivered by

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Conference on Disarmament**

Please allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Sorreta, on assuming the role of President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Rest assured that you enjoy the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

As a State Party to the Convention, the Kingdom of the Netherlands promotes the norms it establishes and we make our best efforts to discourage States not Party to this Convention from using cluster munitions. We reaffirm the fundamental importance of full compliance with, and continued commitment to, the Convention and the Netherlands calls upon all parties, at all times and in all places, to uphold their commitments in both letter and spirit.

By banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, the Convention not only protects civilians, but also promotes International Humanitarian Law, strengthens global norms against indiscriminate weapons, and supports assistance for victims and affected communities. Its importance lies in saving lives, preventing future harm, and fostering accountability and cooperation among states.

The CCM was developed to make an end to the unacceptable harm caused by the use of cluster munitions. Conventions like the CCM can only be effective if we commit ourselves to them not only in times of peace, but especially in times of growing security threats. As a CCM State Party, the Netherlands would like to underline action 11 of the Lausanne Action Plan that calls on States

Parties to discourage the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions.

The Netherlands recognizes that the deteriorating geopolitical situation and the changing security environment within Europe are part of the relevant context in which possible steps around humanitarian treaties are considered. Russia's all-out war of aggression against Ukraine and its destabilizing activities have significantly heightened a sense of insecurity and an urgency to strengthen deterrence and defence. We reiterate our strong solidarity with our Allies. Our core objective remains the security of our Allies and the protection of civilians from the devastating consequences of cluster munitions.

The Lausanne Action Plan emphasizes the value of gender equality and diversity. In order to reach our common goals, it is essential to continuously use an inclusive approach. We would like to underline the importance of structurally including a gender perspective in our work with regard to the CCM and to ensure the full, equitable, and meaningful participation and decision-making so that all relevant experiences and perspectives are included in our discussions.

Collectively we work towards our shared objective — to eradicate cluster munitions and put an end to the agony they cause. The Kingdom of the Netherlands stands ready to work together with all States Parties in an open, constructive and inclusive manner in order to achieve these objectives. The Netherlands calls on States Parties to continue efforts to promote the observance of the Convention's norms.