



**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**at the**

**Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**16-19 September 2025**

**Agenda Item 10j Gender mainstreaming**

**as delivered by**

**Ms. Doris Tesselaar**

**Third Secretary**

**Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on  
Disarmament**

Thank you, Mr President,

First of all, my delegation would like to thank Germany as Gender Focal Point of the Convention for giving an update on the progress on the implementation of gender and diversity in the work of the Convention.

Mr President,

As we approach the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and enter the final year of the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan, this is a timely moment to reflect both on the progress made and the work that remains.

In this context, my delegation recognizes and commends the critical role of women, including those experiencing the lived reality of cluster munitions attacks and cluster munition remnants, in advancing the objectives of the Convention.

We are encouraged by the increasing efforts of States Parties to mainstream gender considerations into implementation. In particular, we congratulate Lao PDR and Lebanon, as recognized by their leading scores in the “gender and diversity” criterion of the Mine Action Review Report of 2025. Their leadership offers insights that can benefit us all, and we encourage the continued exchange of best practices and lessons learnt among States Parties.

Looking ahead, in the fast-changing and complex world we face today, it is more important than ever to address the gendered impacts of cluster munitions and their remnants.

In 2024 alone, 314 people were killed or injured by cluster munitions in nine countries. While men and boys are more likely to be killed or injured by cluster

munition remnants, women and girls often face indirect impacts, shouldering the burden of providing financial support and caregiving responsibilities.

This underscores that gender considerations should not be addressed in isolation. We must adopt an inclusive and intersectional approach that takes into account the different needs, perspectives, and contributions of women, men, boys and girls from diverse populations and all ages in the implementation of the Convention and mine action programmes. By incorporating gender and diversity considerations into programming, we can ensure that activities deliver for all, including those that are often marginalized and face more obstacles to access their rights.

To achieve this, it is imperative that we strengthen cross-regional cooperation and break down silos between the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other relevant frameworks, including other humanitarian disarmament treaties, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Youth, Peace, and Security-agenda.

Mr President,

Despite modest progress seen in 2024, women continue to make up only 35% of national delegates in official CCM meetings. This underrepresentation, also relating to youth and cluster munition victims, means that valuable perspectives and lived experiences remain excluded. The result is not only a gap in inclusivity, but also in the effectiveness of risk education, clearance operations, and ultimately, in achieving inclusive security for all.

In this light, we applaud the important 2025 Youth for Humanitarian Disarmament Multimedia Contest and congratulate Martina Musio for her impressive work.

Mr President,

The Netherlands is fully committed to strengthening its collective efforts in building inclusive security for women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity.

Thank you.