



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 8 General exchange of views

as delivered by

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Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the role of President of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Let me assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union. Please allow me to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

I would like to start with extending my sincere congratulations to the Republic of Vanuatu on its recent accession to the Convention. Each ratification of the CCM strengthens global rejection of indiscriminate weapons that inflict disproportionate suffering on civilians and supports assistance for victims and affected communities. In the current geopolitical context, marked by ongoing conflicts, like the unprecedented Russian aggression against Ukraine which also leads to an increased sense of insecurity in neighbouring countries, as well as the erosion of humanitarian norms, this accession stands as a timely reminder of the importance of multilateral commitments to humanitarian instruments.

As a State Party to the Convention, the Kingdom of the Netherlands subscribes to the norms established by the CCM and is committed to its full compliance. By banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, the Convention not only protects civilians, but also promotes International Humanitarian Law.

Our commitment is reflected not only through our efforts as coordinator of the International Cooperation and Assistance Committee, together with Switzerland, but also through our support to countries in their efforts to

remove landmines and cluster munitions, support victims, destroy stockpiles and carry out other mine action activities.

The Netherlands has recently launched its third multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme that runs from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2030. The Programme is valued at 78.75 million Euros and allocates funding to eight countries, namely Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. The Programme has two pillars, namely 60.75 million Euros for mine action activities, including cluster munition clearance, and 14 million Euros for activities aimed at capacity development of National Mine Action Authorities. In addition, 4 million Euros is reserved for the contingency fund, that is open to the NGO partners in our Programme and meant for occurring situations.

Mr. President,

Making most efficient use of the limited resources of the international community 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. 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.

Mr. President,

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.

Thank you.