



**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**at the**

**Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**14-18 September 2026**

**Agenda Item 10 International Cooperation and Assistance**

**as delivered by**

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**Vientiane, Laos, 16 September 2026**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Netherlands remains fully committed to the Convention's complete and effective implementation. Achieving our shared objective of a world free of cluster munitions requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders: affected states, donor countries, implementing organizations and civil society partners alike. Effective national ownership and institutional frameworks should be at the core of these efforts. We welcome the Vientiane Capital Action Plan's strong emphasis on national ownership, building on the foundations laid by the Lausanne Action Plan. The VCAP provides a clear framework for international cooperation and assistance that is driven by affected states and supported by broad, inclusive partnerships.

Mr. President,

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, provide risk education, support victims, destroy stockpiles and carry out other mine action activities.

Our third multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme runs from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2030. With a total budget of almost 84 million euros, it supports comprehensive mine action activities – including survey, clearance of cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance, risk education, and victim assistance – in eight countries: Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

Localisation is at the core of this Programme. We are committed to ensuring that mine action is nationally owned and sustainably embedded in local systems. Therefore, a substantial part of our support is directed towards strengthening the capacities of National Mine Action Authorities and local organisations, so that they can plan, coordinate and implement mine action effectively, in line with international standards.

The Programme is also explicitly designed around the triple nexus of humanitarian action, development and peace. By connecting clearance with longer-term institution-building and community resilience, we aim to ensure that mine action delivers sustainable impact well beyond the lifetime of the Programme.

Mr. President,

The Netherlands is grateful to have been able to contribute to the Convention's international cooperation and assistance pillar through its involvement, together with Switzerland, in the ICA Committee over the past years. We will, unfortunately, no longer participate in the ICA Committee due to staff reductions. However, we will continue to explore opportunities to promote international cooperation and assistance and contribute to the Convention's achievements.

Thank you.