



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 3 on
Article 5 Implementation
2019 Intersessionals meetings of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Madame Chair,

This Committee fulfils a crucial role in an important area of this Convention, namely ensuring that mined areas are cleared, within the deadlines. Clearing anti-personnel mines saves lives every day.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Netherlands would like to make some remarks in its national capacity.

In its capacity of a state party, the Netherlands would like to thank Argentina, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, and Yemen for submitting their extension requests in time. We appreciate their commitments and efforts to clear their contaminated areas and to communicate about their respective situations in their country in a transparent way. However, the Netherlands is also concerned regarding the extension request of Eritrea. As of today, no such request has been submitted and we would like to take the opportunity to remind all state parties of fulfilling their obligations, including the timely submission of Article 5 extension requests.

Further, the Netherlands is also worried about the increased use of improvised mines in certain areas of the world. There has been a great amount of discussion

whether some of these devices are considered anti-personnel land mines and, and such, would fall under convention obligations. The Netherlands is of the opinion that these victim-activated improvised mines are considered antipersonnel land mines. As such, these mines need to be cleared under Article 5 of the Convention. We urge countries who have fallen victim to the increased use of these improvised mines to acknowledge the issues they are facing in this regard. The Netherlands, together with the international community, is ready and willing to provide assistance in dealing with these improvised mines, but can only do so when the problem is properly recognized.

Lastly, the Netherlands would also like to take the opportunity to stress the importance of mine risk education as a means of preventing victims of landmines. When each civilian living in mine affected areas understands the hazards of these indiscriminate weapons, the chances of falling victim will decrease significantly. Not only will this save lives, it will also help in clearing contaminated areas as local civilians are able to provide assistance to clearing teams. In our current mine action program, risk education plays a large role in ensuring the safety of civilians. We urge other countries to also consider the impact increased risk education activities can have on the amount of casualties and injuries resulting from landmines.

To reach the goal of a mine free world and alleviate the suffering of civilians living in affected areas, it is important that all state parties work tirelessly in ensuring all types of antipersonnel mines are cleared.

Thank you Madame Chair.