

Netherlands

Mr President,

Let me start by thanking the Committee (on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance) for their conclusions and recommendations.

In the political declaration of Maputo we all agreed to strive to implement our outstanding obligations under this Convention before 2025. This will not be an easy task, and we fully realize some will have to do more than others. However, in the spirit of this convention we should look for ways to help each other and to share this burden. This was also recognized in the political declaration where we stated that ' We will fulfill our obligations to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines and clear all mined areas as soon as possible, mindful that cooperation will accelerate completion of these tasks'.

Mr President,

We therefore think this convention and our common goal of 2025 would be greatly helped by establishing a link between article 5 and cooperation and assistance. We do not suggest to change the existing committee structure, but would like to make a plea for closer cooperation between the work of both committees. More in particular we think we should consider to enhance our cooperation with those states who take their article 5 commitments very seriously and are eager to show a clear commitment to implement their obligations. In our view donors

have a particular responsibility to assist those states. We will submit a short decision to this effect to be included in the final report.

Mr President,

The Netherlands remains committed to do its share to achieve a mine-free world in 2025.

Between 2012 until 2016 assistance to mine affected states is provided via our Multi-Annual *Humanitarian Mine Action and Cluster Munition Programme*. Through this programme we work together with our partners: Handicap International, Mines Advisory Group, The Halo Trust and the Danish Church Aid, in 11 countries on Clearance, Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance and Stock Pile Reduction in order to improve Human Security as well as to create the preconditions for stabilization, reconstruction and socio-economic development.

Besides the multi annual programme the Netherlands responded to emergency situations with funding to our partners MAG, HI and the Halo Trust in Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. As our multi annual programme is coming to an end in 2016, we are currently looking at next steps.

We have just completed an external evaluation of the current programme . We would like to share the results of this evaluation

and especially on the benefits of multi annual financing with you. Therefore we would like to invite you to a side-event where the results of this evaluation will be presented and commented on by our partners. The event will take place coming Friday at 1pm in room VIII, you are all most welcome to join.

One of the conclusions of the evaluation is that multi-annual funding allows our partners to make more efficient use of their finances and resources.

Therefore the Netherlands calls all member states to consider multi annual funding of Mine Action Programmes for the purpose of being more efficient with the diminishing budgets.

Thank you