



Statement of the Netherlands
on the
Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
18th Meeting of the State Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mr President.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Netherlands would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Apart from the political support it provides to the Convention, the Netherlands is keen to financially support mine action worldwide with a view to save lives, improve livelihoods and to contribute to development and stabilisation efforts. This support is also important with a view to our own obligations as a States Party to this Convention, where countries in a position to do so pledged to provide assistance to reach our common objective of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

The Netherlands has a long record of funding mine action in different parts of the world and will continue to do so. Multi-annual planning of financing is important to enable implementers to operate in a cost-effective way and to achieve better results. The Netherlands calls on other States Parties to implement multi-annual programmes with a view to reaching our goal in the most efficient way.

In September, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, we launched our new multiannual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme. This programme is valued at EUR 51 million for the period 2020 – 2024 and is a successor to the programme that ran from 2016 – 2020. The new programme has funding reserved for nine countries, namely Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, South Sudan, Somalia and Laos. It also funds activities aimed at strategic policy influencing, innovation, and capacity building. Moreover, there is a EUR 10 million contingency allocation in the programme that will be available for emergency situations. The programme has a strong focus on both gender and capacity building and aligns strongly with action item 45 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Next to our efforts to rid the world of landmines, we have assisted and will continue to support the multilateral framework of the Convention through our EUR 40,000 annual support to the ISU and EUR 10,000 to its sponsorship programme. Furthermore, we support the work of UNMAS through an annual voluntary unearmarked contribution of EUR 3 mln, and last year we made an extra contribution to UNMAS mine action activities in Iraq that will run well into 2021.

As the world is facing the COVID-19 crisis and the impact it has created, it is not unlikely that support for mine action will be under pressure in the coming years due to a decline in funds available for international cooperation as a result of the economic fall-out of the pandemic. We call upon other States Parties in the position to do so to continue providing assistance and to not decrease their support for mine action. Especially in times like these, it is an impediment for all the different stakeholders to unify and not to let the new reality weaken our aspiration for a mine free world.

In order to fulfil this aspiration, the Netherlands is committed to continue to cooperate and provide assistance to those States Parties that need support in meeting their commitments under the Convention, as well as to a number of affected non-States Parties.

Thank you, Mr President.