



Statement of the Netherlands
on
Agenda item 9 (g)
Transparency and exchange of information

18th Meeting of the State Parties
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Mr President,

[TRANSPARENCY AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION]

To reach the goals set at the Oslo Review Conference, we believe it is important for States Parties to be as open and transparent as possible regarding the destruction of mines, their stockpiles, and international cooperation. We therefore urge all states to submit their Article 7 progress reports and other measures taken to ensure compliance with the treaty. We can only have a mine free world if the States Parties collaborate with each other and transparency is essential for such cooperation.

[RETENTION OF STOCKPILES FOR TRAINING PURPOSES]

The Oslo Action Plan calls upon States Parties to annually review the number of mines retained to ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes, i.e. training, and will destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed that number. Following this call, the Netherlands recently reviewed its stockpile of landmines permitted under the Convention. It was deemed

that although the number that was held by the Netherlands was low and close to the minimum number of landmines absolutely necessary for training purposes, the amount could still be further decreased.

As a result, the Netherlands is currently in the process to decrease its stockpile to a minimum with the destruction of an additional 600 type DM-31 landmines. These mines are initially anti-tank mines, but we discovered that they have a higher sensitivity than originally anticipated. In a number of cases, these mines – if focused – also appear to be sensitive to persons and can be accidentally triggered by persons. As this makes them less suitable for training purposes and furthermore creates a potential danger for personnel (military and civilian) that are present in the immediate vicinity, the Netherlands decided that the DM-31 in its current capacity and configuration should no longer be used. They are therefore being destroyed at short notice, pending improvement of the Covid-19 situation.

Furthermore, we are exploring possibilities to use new technologies in mine clearance training that would allow the destruction of the last live mines in stock.

We encourage other States Parties to also review their stockpile to ensure they only hold the absolute minimum number of mines permitted under the Convention. Every mine that is destroyed, even if it is one held in an ammunition storage, is a mine less that could potentially harm an innocent victim.

Thank you, Mr President.