



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Third Annual Pledging Conference for the Implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Tuesday, 27 February 2018, 10:00, Palais des Nations

Statement by Sachi Claringbould, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

Madam President,

Thank you. I would like start by congratulating you for assuming the role of president of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. The Netherlands attaches much importance to this Treaty and all the work that is being done to rid the world of anti-personnel landmines. Let me assure you that we will fully support you during your tenure as president leading up to the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties at the end of this year here in Geneva.

I will focus my intervention on the contributions the Netherlands is making towards the success of this Treaty.

Firstly, the Netherlands runs a **multi-annual humanitarian Mine Action and Cluster Munitions programme of 45 million euros, spanning the period 2016-2020**. We support activities of three operators, namely the Mines Advisory Group, the HALO Trust and Danish Church Aid, in 13 countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine. The programme focuses on gender and innovation and includes funds up to **10 million euros for emergency responses**. In this context we are making resources available for contamination caused by Da'esh in Iraq, Syria and Libya. This kind of contamination on a large scale targeting civilians by non-state actors is one of the challenges the Ottawa community will have to collectively deal with. The Netherlands is ready to contribute its part.

Secondly, the Netherlands supports the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund with an annual contribution of **3 million euros**.

Thirdly, the Netherlands has also been **supporting the ISU with a multi-annual contribution of 40.000 euros** up until 2021 at least. We also support the **sponsorship programme with an multi-annual contribution, also until 2021, of 10.000 euros**. We would like to encourage others to also consider multi-annual contribution to increase predictability and improve planning.

Lastly, we would like to thank UNODA for their presentation about the current financial situation of the Ottawa Convention. I just received a message from The Hague that our assessed contribution has been wired this morning. I apologise for the delay. Although the financial situation has improved compared to previous years, the Netherlands believes it necessary to remain vigilant concerning the **financial situation of the Convention**. We do welcome the increased rate of payments in 2017. However, structural arrears by several States Parties remain an urgent matter of concern. Unless they are solved, we will be forced to take cost-saving measures again, possibly leading to the cancellation of one of the meeting days. We prefer to avoid this. In that regard, it is of utmost importance that all States fulfil their article 14 obligations. Furthermore, we would like to recall paragraph 44 of the final document of the sixteenth MSP, in which the Meeting called upon the States to address issues arising from outstanding dues. It also requested the presidency to continue to consult with the view of strengthening financial predictability and sustainability and to report back to the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties. We look forward to this consultation with a view to improve the financial health of this Convention. We would like to reiterate that in that regard, Madam President, you can count on the Netherlands' full support.

Thank you.