



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands

on

Compliance

2020 Intersessionals meetings of the

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

In addition to the statement written by the EU, the Netherlands has some additional remarks in its national capacity.

The Netherlands is deeply concerned with the use of anti-personnel landmines by government forces and non-state actors. The use of these mines disrupts human security and socio-economic development in affected states. In particular, the Netherlands would like to mention its strong concern about the use of mines of an improvised nature. These mines pose a great risk to internally displaced people in countries like Syria, Iraq and Libya and for those wishing to return home. Especially worrying is the increased use of mines of an improvised nature in urban settings. The Netherlands condemns the use of these mines anywhere and anytime

Recent reports about the impact of mines of an improvised nature in urban areas in Libya are shocking. Not only do these indiscriminate weapons cause immense human suffering, using them also violates established humanitarian law. The Netherlands condemns the use of these anti-personnel mines anywhere and anytime. We call upon all parties within Libya to stop the use, stockpile, and production of anti-personnel landmines of any type. We also commend Sudan as President of the Convention for their statement on this issue.

The use of anti-personnel landmines by government forces or non-state armed groups also severely threatens human security. As a strong proponent of fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals, the Netherlands underlines the importance of ensuring a mine free world as a necessity for reducing all forms of violence. If we do not address this problem, everyone remains vulnerable. Women collecting water, children playing, men working in fields. To ensure affected civilians can live safely without any experiencing any fear, civil-military cooperation is needed to clear not only military strategic positions but also houses, schools and markets. The Netherlands is fully committed to ensuring the safety of all people under threat of these anti-personnel mines.