



Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 4 on
the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance
2019 Intersessionals meetings of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Chair,

The Netherlands would like to thank the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance for all its efforts. This Committee plays an important role in the Convention's architecture, bringing different States Parties and stakeholders together with a view to enhance cooperation and assistance and thus assisting the implementation of our obligations under Article 6 of the Convention.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Netherlands would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity

Apart from the 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 world free of anti-personnel mines.

We have a long record of funding many projects in different parts of the world and we 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 for 2025 in the most efficient way.

The Netherlands provides funding to our partners The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group and Danish Church Aid via our multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme for a total amount of 45 million euros for the four-year period of 2016-2020. These resources will be dedicated to mine-clearance, survey, risk reduction education, victim assistance and local capacity building of mine action authorities.

Recently, through the program we have financed new project in Iraq, Yemen, and Afghanistan totaling EUR 1.8 mln. In particular, our Afghanistan project that aims to identify and clear improvised mines has been called a success by both the implementing partners and affected communities. This success is largely due to the cooperative nature of the project, since it is co-financed by Germany. This cooperation has led to increased efficiencies and involvement. We call upon other states who are capable of providing assistance to affected states to seek cooperation among each other.

The Netherlands is also currently working on the continuation of its existing program through the development of a new tender. As part of this new tender we are currently conducting an evaluation of the current program. Any findings and lessons-learned will be shared with the public to further improve mine action programming worldwide. We encourage all interested parties to write in for this new tender when it will open up in the first quarter of 2020.

In order to fulfil the aspiration to achieve an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025, 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 affected non-States Parties.

Thank you Chair.