



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands
under agenda item 11 (b) on
Clearing mined areas
Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to start by thanking the Committee on Article 5 Implementation for the incredible amounts of work they done for this Convention. This Committee fulfils a crucial role in an important area of this Convention, namely ensuring that mined areas are cleared, within the deadlines. Clearing anti-personnel mines saves lives every day.

The Netherlands would like to align itself with the Statement delivered by the EU and would like to make some remarks in its national capacity.

In the last 20 years significant progress has been made to clear areas from anti-personnel- mines, which cause so much human suffering. In order to achieve a mine free world in the following eight years, we have to keep up this work. In this regard the Netherlands would like to congratulate Algeria with clearing all anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction.

The Netherlands would like emphasise the importance of conducting mine clearance in an effective way by optimal use of new technologies and methodologies, for example on land release via non-technical survey. Additionally, when clearing anti-personnel mines, including improvised devices, safety and security of personnel is

of utmost importance as well. This means using up to date standards that take into account the different contexts and purposes in which clearance takes place.

The Netherlands takes note of the ongoing elaboration of United Nations Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Standards coordinated by the United Nations Mine Action Service in cooperation with national technical experts, until the International Mine Action Standards have been updated. The Netherlands was pleased to hear that the process regarding the IMAS update has already begun. Further standards on how to deal with the evolving threat of anti-personnel mines, explosive remnants of war and Improvised Explosive Devices et cetera are necessary to save lives in the most efficient and safest manner.

Thank you, Mr. President.