



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Second International Pledging Conference for the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Tuesday, 28 February 2017, 15:00-17:00, Palais des Nations, Room XII

Statement by Sachi Claringbould, First Secretary at the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr President,

Thank you. As I am taking the floor for the first time in a formal meeting, I would like to congratulate 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 sixteenth Meeting of States Parties at the end of this year in Vienna.

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, 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 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 has been **supporting the ISU with a yearly contribution of €50.000** for a number of years. We will again contribute €50.000 this year and intend to continue this practice. Also, we have contributed to the **ISU's financial security buffer for an amount of CHF 12.000**. We call upon states parties in a position to do so to also consider contributing to this buffer as it will help keeping the ISU's financial condition sound.

Lastly, as **chair of the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**, the Netherlands will endeavour, together with our Committee members from Algeria, Canada and Uganda, to continue our work on 1) mapping the needs and challenges of states parties, 2) developing the **individualised approach** to facilitate a platform for interested affected states to present their case in an effective, tailor-made manner and 3) improving the use of the Platform for Partnership. This was all contained in a letter we sent to all states parties earlier this month. We would like to thank all states parties for their contributions and cooperation in this regard.

Thank you Mr President.