

Intersessional Meeting of State Parties of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Geneva, 8-9 June 2017

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Cooperation & Assistance

[Cooperation and Assistance]

On cooperation and assistance, the Netherlands stresses the importance of individual tailor made, needs-based approaches to clearance in order to meet the obligation under article 5. When we work together as affected country, operators, donors and other stakeholders and focus on what is needed to reach the deadlines, how to meet 'demand & supply' so to speak, we will be able to reach the deadlines quicker and rid countries of these mines and improve human security.

The Netherlands wishes to support States Parties and non-States Parties in Mine Action to achieve our shared ambition to reach a world free of mines by 2025 through our multiannual *Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme*. In addition to this programme, the Netherlands has initiated emergency response projects in countries in which the needs are high as in Libya around Sirte and Iraq around Mosul.

Furthermore the Netherlands supports UNMAS work worldwide through contributing to the Voluntary Trust Fund. Our embassies are actively involved to support Mine Action. The Netherlands focuses special attention on Gender in Mine Action. UN Security Council Resolution 1325, emphasizes: "*the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls*". In order to understand what specific needs of women and girls are, we need to know what the difference in male and female roles are in the society we are working in and how we can specifically target these needs with our programmes. Mainstreaming Gender (in programming) leads to increased levels of safety and better outputs in Mine Action affecting all people.

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 to reach our goal for 2025 in the most efficient way.