



**Statement of the Netherlands**  
**under agenda item 9 (c) on**  
**Cooperation and Assistance**  
**Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties of the**  
**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Thank you Chair,

The Netherlands would like to thank the Committee on 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.

The Netherlands welcomes the Committee's conclusions in its report for this Meeting of States Parties. In particular, we value the continuation of the individualised approach pursued by the Committee to effectively assist States Parties, interested in this approach, to present their challenges and needs comprehensively. By using an individualised approach, we can provide assistance to affected States in a tailor-made way, addressing their specific needs and challenges. We hope that this will lead to the further increase of transparency in mine clearance operations, and that it will contribute to improved donor coordination.

In addition, we value the Committee's recognition of the importance of gender mainstreaming in mine action. Anti-personnel mines affect people regardless of sex, age, and gender. It remains important, however, to be aware that they may affect people differently. We therefore continue to advocate for the message regarding mine action included in the UN Security Resolution 1325. We stand behind any efforts made to ensure inclusivity within the mine action sector and its activities carried out. The Netherlands actively promotes a gender-based approach in its own mine action activities in order to ensure increased levels of safety in a tailor-made way for *all* people.

Apart from the support it provides to the Convention, the Netherlands is keen to financially support mine action worldwide with a view on saving lives, improving livelihoods and contributing 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 an anti-personnel mines free world.

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 to reach 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 education, victim assistance and local capacity building of mine action authorities in the following affected countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, South-Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Colombia, Somalia, Kosovo, Ukraine, Libya, Mali and Yemen and in the Palestinian Territories. This year, the Netherlands also

provided emergency response funding of 1.5 million euros to demining activities in and around the city of Derna in Libya.

The Netherlands further provides an annual unearmarked contribution of 3 million euros to the UNMAS Voluntary Trust Fund. This year, the Netherlands has also pledged an earmarked contribution of 3 million euros to UNMAS' activities in Afghanistan. Lastly, we also support the ISU and the APMBC Sponsorship Programme with multi-annual funding.

To ensure our funding continues to align with the Convention and Maputo Action Plan, the Netherlands is currently developing a long-term mine action strategy. We believe it is essential to have a long-term vision on how our mine action activities fit into the evolving geopolitical context. We encourage other donor countries to engage in similar strategic exercises and to ensure that their strategies align with each other. Only through proper donor coordination can we be sure our activities are as efficient and far reaching as possible.

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.