



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Netherlands**  
**on the**  
**Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance**  
**2020 Intersessionals meetings of the**  
**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

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 in the most efficient way.

In March, we published the policy framework for the new Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme. This programme is valued at EUR 51 million for the time period 2020 – 2024 and is a successor to the similar programme that ran from 2016 – 2020. The new programme has funding reserved for priority countries, being Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen, but also specific reservations for activities in other mine affected states that are States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, contingency activities, and activities aimed at strategic policy influencing, innovation, and capacity building. The programme has a

strong focus on both gender and capacity building. We envisage that the new programme will strongly align with action item 45 of the Oslo Action Plan.

Next to our efforts to rid the world of landmines by 2025, we have assisted and will continue to support the multilateral framework of the Convention through our annual support to the ISU and its sponsorship programme. Only through our mutual efforts through the convention can we save the most lives potentially lost due to anti-personnel landmines.

As the world is facing the global pandemic and impact it has created, it is not unlikely that support for mine action will be under pressure in the upcoming months and maybe even upcoming years due to a decline in funds available for international cooperation as a result of the economic fall-out of the pandemic. We call upon other States Parties in the position to provide assistance to not decrease their support for mine action. Especially in times like these, it is impediment that all the different stakeholders will unify and not let the new reality weaken our aspiration for a mine free world.

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 a number of affected non-States Parties.