



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Netherlands**

**on**

**Stockpile destruction and retained mines**

**2020 Intersessionals meetings of the**

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

The Oslo Action Plan calls upon States Parties to annually review the number of mines retained to ensure that they do not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary for permitted purposes, i.e. training, and will destroy all anti-personnel mines that exceed that number. Following this call, the Netherlands reviewed its stockpile of landmines permitted under the Convention. It was deemed that although the number that was held by the Netherlands was low and close to the minimum number of landmines absolutely necessary for training purposes, the amount could still be further decreased.

As a result, the Netherlands is currently in the process to explore possibilities to decrease its stockpile to a minimum with the destruction of an additional 600 landmines. We encourage other States Parties to also review their stockpile to ensure they only hold the absolute minimum number of mines permitted under the Convention. Every mine that is destroyed, even if it is one held in an ammunition storage, is a mine less that could potentially harm an innocent victim.