



Kingdom of the Netherlands

## **Statement of the Netherlands**

**on**

### **Victim Assistance**

**19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States parties**

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Thank you Mr. Chair.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, The Netherlands would like to add the following in its national capacity.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention reminds us of the devastating impact that landmines and other explosive remnants of war have on the lives of people worldwide. Victim assistance is an essential part of Mine Action to respond to the needs of mine victims, their families and communities. It requires active efforts and long-term commitment from each and every one of us.

We see that progress has been made: steps have been taken to underscore victim assistance in Mine Action. We commend the Committee on Victim Assistance for their efforts to facilitate reporting and information exchange on the needs of mine victims in several States, as well as their efforts to encourage the establishment of a centralised data base with information on mine victims to ensure a comprehensive and effective response to their needs.

Nevertheless, there is still a long road ahead of us to ensure that all aspects of victim assistance are actively implemented. Several States lack adequate resources to respond effectively to the needs of mine victims and their communities. It is necessary to provide continued support to these States to reinforce a comprehensive response to the needs of mine victims and to meet the shared commitments under the Convention and the Oslo Action Plan.

The Netherlands has always been an advocate of ensuring that assistance of mine victims and survivors is integrated adequately into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks related to the rights of persons with disabilities, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction. Victim assistance goes beyond Mine Action and The Netherlands appreciates and fully supports the growing number of States that put their efforts towards this ambition.

The Netherlands would like to emphasise again the importance of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support as an integral part of victim assistance and we welcome its growing adoption and implementation by several partners. This aspect of victim assistance has not been receiving its due attention and support until now. Mental health is an essential part to overall well-being and health and must not be neglected. The Netherlands supports States Parties and non-States Parties to adopt Mental Health and Psychosocial support into their broader victim assistance priorities within Mine Action and beyond.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.