

Thank you Mr President.

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

Apart from the political 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 provide assistance to reach our common objective of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

The Netherlands has a long record of funding mine action in different parts of the world and 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.

The heart of our Mine Action efforts is our multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme, which is valued at 51 million Euros for the period 2020 to 2024. The Programme has funding reserved for nine countries, and it also funds activities aimed at strategic policy influencing, innovation, and capacity building. Our Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme has a strong focus on both gender and capacity building, and aligns strongly with action item 45 of the Oslo Action Plan.

We also support the work of UNMAS through an annual voluntary contribution that this year was raised to 5 million Euros. Furthermore, through UNDP, we support the Lebanon Mine Action Center, as well as mine action in Yemen.

Next to our efforts to rid the world of landmines, we have assisted and will continue to support the multilateral framework of the Convention through our 40,000 Euros annual support to the ISU, and 10,000 Euros to its sponsorship programme. We are proud to have initiated the new Cooperation and Assistance Fund and have made a first donation of 10,000 Euros to the Fund. We hope that the Fund will enable mine-affected countries to share experiences and knowledge and thus learn from each other.

As a result of the economic fall-out of the pandemic, it is not unlikely that worldwide financial support for mine action will be under pressure in the coming years. We call upon other States Parties in a position to do so to continue providing assistance and to not decrease their support for mine action. Especially in times like these, it is an impediment for all the different stakeholders to unify and not to let the new reality weaken our aspiration for a mine free world.

Thank you, Mr President.