



Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
under agenda item 10 (a) on
Victim Assistance
21st Meeting of States Parties of the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Thank you Mr. President,

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, the Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to commend Cambodia and the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) for organizing the 3rd Victim Assistance Review Conference in October this year. We would also like to thank the EU for supporting this important event financially. The Conference provided indeed an excellent start of discussions, delivering meaningful input in preparing for the Fifth Review Conference in 2024.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recalls that the APMBC was the first disarmament convention introducing the concept of Victim Assistance, thereby recognizing the importance of restoring the rights and lives of people affected by armed conflict.

Sustainable development and peaceful societies where *no one is left behind*, will never be possible without the inclusion of persons who have, either individually or collectively, suffered economic, physical, emotional, and psychological injuries from war and conflict.

Since 1997 Victim Assistance has become increasingly inclusive and rights based, but there is still a long way to. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is looking forward to become member of the Victim Assistance Committee in the coming year to work on a progressive agenda for the future. In addition, we intend to continue our advocacy for structurally including Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support in relevant mine action and Victim Assistance strategies, interventions, and budgets, with specific emphasis on gender equality and inclusive approaches.

Thank you, Mr. President.