



General Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
2025 Meeting of States Parties
to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Madame President, Excellencies, dear delegates,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has a longstanding record of supporting mine action across the world.

At a time when the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention faces increasing pressure, it is more important than ever to demonstrate our continued commitment. It is our collective responsibility to uphold the Convention and to increase the number of States Parties, in order to advance our goal of eliminating anti-personnel mines.

In this regard, we warmly welcome the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga that have recently joined the Convention.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the complex and challenging geopolitical context in which we all operate: a deteriorating global security architecture, as well as the erosion of humanitarian norms. The unprecedented Russian aggression against Ukraine has unfortunately led some states to feel compelled to withdraw from the Convention. In addition to this, extreme and unprovoked circumstances have forced Ukraine to its announced suspension of the Convention; although the Convention contains no provision for suspension or derogation. We stand firmly with Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression and we call upon Russia to stop its aggression and to accede to this Convention.

In line with our steadfast commitment to the Convention, the Netherlands launched its third multi-annual mine action programme earlier this year. Running from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2030 and valued at 78.75 million

euros, it supports activities in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

Localisation is central to our approach. We believe that sustainable and long-term impact can only be achieved when activities are carried out together with local partners and in close coordination with national authorities.

However, commitment alone is not enough. In a time of shrinking global resources, we must explore innovative financing. By aligning public and private capacities, we can create a fund model that invests upfront, accelerates demining, and uses recovered resources to support new projects. In this way, innovative financing becomes a driver of faster and sustainable results, directly linking mine action to agricultural and economic recovery.

Madame President, the Netherlands remains steadfast in its commitment to a world free of anti-personnel mines, because we believe mine action saves lives, restores dignity and lays the groundwork for lasting peace.

Thank you for giving me the floor.