



**Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of  
Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction  
Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties (MSP22)  
Agenda item 9a: Assisting the Victims**

**Geneva, 3 December 2025**

**delivered by**

**Henriëtte van Gulik**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the  
Conference on Disarmament**

Thank you Madame 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.

I would like to begin by extending my thanks to my colleagues on the Victim Assistance Committee: Austria, Sri Lanka, and to Burkina Faso for its leadership as Chair. It has been an honor for the Netherlands to serve on the Committee over the past two years.

As we enter the first year of implementing the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan, the Netherlands stands firmly for the integration of sustainable victim assistance into national policies, budgets, and legal frameworks. This includes support across health, mental health and psychosocial support, education, employment, rehabilitation, and development. In doing so, we advance the shared ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Within these broad efforts, my delegation wishes to underscore two critical dimensions of victim assistance: gender considerations, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

Victim assistance programmes that overlook the diverse realities within mine-affected communities risk reinforcing existing inequalities and further marginalizing those whose needs are least visible. This is particularly evident in the gendered impacts of mines and explosive remnants of war: while most direct victims are men and boys, women often bear significant indirect consequences.

Moreover, survivors frequently experience long-term physical, emotional, and psychological challenges. Too often the importance of mental and psychosocial wellbeing is ignored, because of stigma, or because it is seen as too complex.

Integrating both gender considerations and MHPSS into victim assistance is therefore indispensable to ensuring programmes are inclusive, rights-based, and gender-responsive.

Sustained progress depends on strong reporting. This is a key obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Recognising the overlapping goals and similar reporting elements across these conventions offers a powerful opportunity to streamline the process. A more integrated and consistent approach to victim assistance reporting can reduce duplication of efforts, improve the quality and comprehensiveness of information submitted, and strengthen transparency and accountability overall.

In order to facilitate this, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has developed a practical tool on synergies in victim assistance reporting across conventions. We hope that this will support State Parties in preparing their reports.

Thank you.