



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

on the occasion of the

11th Annual Pledging Conference in support of the

implementation of the

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,

Geneva, 9 March 2026

delivered by

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Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the

Netherlands to the

Conference on Disarmament

Thank you Madame President.

[congratulations Presidency; alignment clause EU statement].

The Netherlands remains firmly committed to the Mine Ban Convention. Beyond our political support, we are determined to provide meaningful financial assistance to mine action worldwide. Our objective is clear: to save lives, restore livelihoods, and contribute to long-term development and stability in communities affected by anti-personnel mines. In doing so, we also uphold our responsibilities as a State Party to this Convention. Those of us with the capacity to assist have pledged to do so, in pursuit of our shared vision of a world free from anti-personnel mines.

Our current multi-annual Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme for 2025–2030 reflects this commitment. With a budget of 78 million euros, this NGO-led programme supports eight priority countries: Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. The programme places strong emphasis on localisation and capacity strengthening, and it aligns closely with the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan. By strengthening local ownership and institutional capacity, we aim to ensure that progress is sustainable and resilient.

As part of our comprehensive and substantial effort to meet the pressing needs in Ukraine, the Netherlands has earmarked an additional amount of more than 67 million euro for Mine Action in Ukraine since the Russian invasion of 2022.

Localisation is not an afterthought: it is central to our approach. In our new programme, five percent of the total budgets allocated to our international

partners is dedicated specifically to strengthening local organisations. We are convinced that sustainable impact can only be achieved when mine action activities are implemented in genuine partnership with local actors and in close coordination with national authorities.

However, commitment alone is not enough. In a time of shrinking global resources, it is essential to explore innovative forms of financing. Therefore, we promote innovative financing for humanitarian demining through public-private partnerships and new funding models, linking mine action directly to agricultural and economic recovery.

These efforts reflect our broader view that mine action is not a stand-alone activity; it is the foundation for sustainable reconstruction, economic resilience and human security. In this context, we have identified the triple nexus approach as critical to increasing long-term impact. Demining only contributes to long term development if we also support farmers to start using their land again - for instance by providing seeds and fertilizers.

In addition to our operational support, the Netherlands continues to strengthen the multilateral framework of the Convention itself. We contribute 40,000 euros annually to the ISU and 10,000 euros to its sponsorship programme, helping to ensure inclusive participation and effective implementation. We call on all States Parties that are in a position to do so to also provide predictable and sustainable financial support to the ISU.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands remains committed to working in close partnership with States Parties requiring assistance to fulfil their commitments under the Convention, as well as with affected non-States

Parties. Together, through solidarity, shared responsibility, and sustained investment, we can move decisively closer to a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Thank you, Madame President.