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PM

12 APLC MSP - Netherlands Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Thursday 6 December, 15.00-18.00 or Friday 7 December, 10.00-13.00

Mr Chairman

The Netherlands has a long tradition in providing assistance in the area of mine clearance. For us, assistance to and cooperation with mine affected areas remains an important priority.

To underline our commitment the Netherlands government has made 45 million Euro available for humanitarian demining and clearance of cluster munitions for four years between 2012 and 2016. We firmly believe that multi-annual contribution through a transparent tender procedure leads to greater transparency, more openness and clear communication on tender objectives and criteria for appraisal and allocation on forehand. Such an approach will therefore improve the quality of the projects. We would therefore like to encourage others also to consider multiyear financing.

Via the tender, subsidies have been given to Dan Church Aid, HALO Trust, Handicap International and MAG. These organizations are active in mine related activities in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, the Palestinian territories, Somalia and South Sudan. Their activities contribute to enhance peace, security and stability, as well as to social economic reconstruction and local capacity building in these countries.

Gender is a central theme in their programs as security is not gender neutral. It is widely accepted that the consequences of the use of mines demands a different approach for women, girls, men and boys.

Separately the Dutch government has recently also approved a contribution of 4,5 million Euro to the activities of UNMAS.

Mr Chairman

As I stated humanitarian demining remains an important priority for the Netherlands. We think that it is possible and essential to free people around the globe from the misery, from the scourge of mines. It is also for this reason we are honored to be elected co-chair of the Committee on Mine Clearance in the coming year.

Thank you