



## **Netherlands Statement**

### **Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II**

**Geneva, 15 November 2022**

Mister President,

Please allow me first to congratulate you on your election as President and you can count on the full support of my delegation. In addition to the statement by the EU, the Netherlands would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mister President,

Amended Protocol II was negotiated to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices covered by this protocol. Therefore, it is of the utmost important to universalize the CCW and its protocols, while also encouraging those High-Contracting Parties to the original Protocol, to accede to the Amended Protocol without delay.

At the same time, the faithful implementation of APII by all High Contracting Parties is key. Therefore, we are deeply concerned by the recently published reports from the UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, as well as the interim report of the OSCE Office for Democratic

Institutions and Human Rights, which provide detailed accounts IHL violations in Ukraine following Russia's illegal invasion.

As the UN reports conclude that the Russian armed forces are responsible for the vast majority of the violations identified. We call again on the Russian Federation to respect IHL, including its APII obligations. Furthermore, we demand for the immediate and unconditional withdraw all Russian troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

We urge High Contracting Parties to the conflict to act in accordance with Amended Protocol II article 7 paragraph 3a and Amended Protocol II article 9 paragraph 2 and make available to the adverse party and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations all information in their possession concerning the location of minefields, mines and boobytraps in the territory of the adverse party, immediately after the cessation of active hostilities and once complete withdrawal of the forces of the parties from the territory of the adverse party has taken place.

Mister President,

The threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) remains of alarming concern to the Netherlands. Addressing IEDs in a holistic manner, requires concerted efforts in the CCW and other relevant forums. In this regard, we welcome the updated political Declaration on IEDs adopted last year. We appreciate

the work of Colombia and France in their role as IED-coordinators. We also welcome the work conducted by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on the development of a voluntary self-assessment tool, which will help identify effective policies and regulations in that regard, as well as possible gaps. Continuing work on this important issue, will ensure that the CCW remains relevant by being responsive to new challenges, which could also help attract new High-Contracting Parties.

Turning to the issue of Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM), the Netherlands is concerned about the humanitarian as well as socio-economic consequences caused by its indiscriminate and disproportionate use. We believe that the High-Contracting Parties should continue to consider the issue and share policies and practices on a voluntary basis. Therefore, we support the adding of MOTAPM to the agenda for next year.

Thank you.