The NL recognizes the importance of a comprehensive approach, which includes a focus on prevention (e.g. preventing precursors from falling into the hands of non-state actors), as well as strategy and clearance. The NL further emphasizes the significance of linking clearance activities to development and stability related objectives. Furthermore, besides a focus on ‘hot’ IEDs (still part of active conflict), the NL emphasizes the need to remain aware of the impact that ‘cold’ IEDs (no longer part of active conflict but posing dangerous hazards for their surroundings) continue have on society. It therefore remains very important to consider what lies in between. In order to include the full scope of the IED landscape, resolution C1 should address all the different aspects and stadia of IEDs.

The Netherlands approach to Counter IED (C-IED) is based on examining the Ends (the C-IED outcomes sought), Ways (the methods of C-IED used including planning considerations), and Means (the resources required for CIED).

The Netherlands C-IED military approach aims to defeat an adversary’s IED System. The approach has three mutually supporting and complementary pillars of activity: attack the networks, defeat the device, and prepare the force.

**Attack the Networks** is the principal pillar with a joint, interagency and multinational character. It consists of largely offensive and proactive activities, driven by intelligence that goes beyond the theatre of operations, designed to disrupt the networks of the adversary’s IED System. Activity is focused on the critical vulnerabilities of the IED System e.g. by denying the supply of components, finance, leaders, specialists and recruits, and adversary exploitation and isolating the adversary from the local population. Exploitation is a vital component of the Attack the Networks activity. Information gained provides a picture of adversary capabilities and intentions, perpetrator relationships and the technical construction of the device. This enables the prediction of forthcoming IED activity, informs the targeting process, and enables follow-up activities to further disrupt the IED System. Intelligence gained from exploitation also feeds into the other C-IED pillars.

**Defeat the Device** is mainly a military response made up of proactive and reactive activities as a result of the existence of suspect or emplaced devices. These activities deliver freedom to operate and achieve the wider aims of the operation. Measures taken here to mitigate, detect and neutralise IEDs have an immediate effect and directly save lives.

**Prepare the Force** activity is applicable to all force components and describes the necessary measures to ensure the force is prepared for operations and enabled to deliver the C-IED approach and its component capabilities. The force requires thorough understanding of the operating environment and the C-IED approach. In order to deliver C-IED capability, coherent and supporting Lines of Development are required. This capability is developed from a mix of the commander’s guidance, the outputs of the residual experience in the JOA, the lessons process, and technology and contributions from the other C-IED pillars. Intelligence on IEDs and related adversary TTPs (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures) are quickly disseminated and friendly TTPs are modified to be as up-to-date, appropriate and effective as possible.

The Netherlands C-IED comprehensive approach includes joint, interagency and multinational elements. The C-IED approach is integrated by all friendly force elements from the outset of campaign planning. This is underpinned by mutual understanding, effective communication, and common doctrine and procedures.

The Netherlands C-IED approach gives effective understanding and interpretation of situations to ensure that appropriate measures are developed. This must be informed by accurate, timely and viable intelligence from the whole range of available sources. In the joint, interagency and multinational environments procedures are established to ensure efficient Information Management (IM) and
information exchange as well as exploitation. Effective exploitation feeds into intelligence, builds understanding and provides the means to deliver a proactive C-IED posture to defeat the IED System. The systematic exploitation of materiel and personnel directly supports operational intelligence through development of specific targets and provides wider situational understanding. It also provides specialist Technical Intelligence (TECHINT) to support the development of defensive measures and TTPs.

Whole Of Government Approach To Countering Domestic IEDs.

Bringing military capabilities, the Netherlands Coordinator for Terrorism and Security (NCTV) and law enforcement authorities together with the intelligence community has been successful in countering attempted IED attacks in the Netherlands. However, the potential for a sustained IED campaign against the Netherlands remains. The means available and the expansion of military C-IED capabilities to respond to domestic IEDs have grown. The responsibility to optimise these resources to provide the Netherlands with the best possible response has led to a Whole Of Government Approach To Countering Domestic IEDs. This required a more efficient use of the resources in this critical area of vulnerability. Shortfalls in current law, military doctrine, organisational structure, training and information sharing protocols are still preventing an optimised and united approach to addressing this threat. The establishment of a Department of Defense Counter-IED Joint Task Force (JTF)/Defense Expertise Centre (DEC) is to facilitate improved response, training and sharing of information from military forces in support of civil law enforcement authorities. The goal of this organisation is to improve coordination with national and local law enforcement, while also improving DoD military (C-IED) response and support provided to other civil authorities. Recent developments include the sharing of biometric data of perpetrators in Mission areas with Law enforcement units.

The NL support to Humanitarian Mine Action

The Netherlands is currently the sixth largest donor globally when it comes to humanitarian demining and has been working together with partner organisations for years in various countries. Since the spring of 2018 the NL has an officer (IED expert) stationed at the UNMAS Headquarters in New York to assist in expanding the capacity of UNMAS in providing expert advice in the areas of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosive hazard mitigation. Essential in ensuring safe clearance of IEDs is the existence of sound standards dedicated to the specific field of activity of the entities applying them. The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) remain the guiding framework for the clearance of all types of explosive ordnances and devices, including IEDs, undertaken for humanitarian purposes and in areas where active hostilities have ceased. The NL acknowledges that the standards related to humanitarian clearance of IEDs could be further improved to take into account the new context in which these devices are used. This should benefit humanitarian organisations that conduct mine/IED clearance. Therefore, the NL welcomes the effort by UNMAS and the IMAS Review Board in further developing the IMAS to address the clearance of all types of IEDs in humanitarian operations. The UN IEDD standards are a necessary addition to complement the existing IMAS for UN-operations, by improving clearance guidelines for contexts beyond purely humanitarian response and while reaffirming the voluntary character of the IEDDs. In UN-operations where the ‘humanitarian space’ is well-defined, the IMAS should remain the guiding framework for clearance operations. The NL strongly advocates for preserving the ‘humanitarian space’. Humanitarian NGOs must be able to conduct their work in the field according to the humanitarian principles. Ensuring that affected States and humanitarian demining operators can rely on a set of standards, dedicated to their own field of activity, when dealing with IEDs is essential to keeping personnel safe, including by safeguarding the already very fragile humanitarian space.