



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

## **7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Geneva, 04.-06. September 2017

### **General Statement by Germany**

Mr. President,

Please allow me to make the following remarks for Germany in a national capacity.

First of all we align ourselves with the Statement of the European Union.

Second, I am pleased to announce that Germany - as other chairs before - will introduce a resolution in the First Committee of the General Assembly taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of the CCM. We hope to achieve a higher number of Yes-votes than States Parties to the convention underscoring the potential for the convention's further universalisation.

Third, since last year we are happy to welcome two new States Parties: Madagascar and Benin . Their joining of the Convention reflects the growing international consensus to ban the use, development, production, and stockpiling of cluster munitions. Germany stays firmly committed to the principle of universality and calls upon all states to ratify or accede to the Convention.

In this context I would like to reiterate that we consider the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an integral part of international humanitarian law. Its effective implementation is crucial in order to protect civilians from the indiscriminate and injurious effects of cluster munitions.

We strongly condemn the reported use of cluster munitions the conflict areas of the Middle East and call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using these weapons.

Mr. President,

Concerning the former military training site close to Wittstock/ Germany we can report the start of clearing operations this year. . Already 30 ha have been cleared and over 200 pieces of cluster munitions were removed.

Let me finally say a few words about cooperation and assistance. The efforts of all States Parties to the Convention are remarkable and cooperation as well as assistance is necessary to reach our shared ambition of a world free of cluster munitions.

It is in this spirit that Germany, together with other partners, further supported the work of the NATO trust fund for Ukraine, which funds the destruction of antipersonnel mines and conventional ammunition including cluster munitions.

I would like to highlight again that Germany is one of the largest donors in humanitarian mine action. Humanitarian mine action is crucial for saving the “lives and limbs” of the affected population, ensuring access for humanitarian aid and allowing the safe and dignified return of refugees and IDPs.

In 2016 Germany has provided more than 18 million Euros for survey and clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy. Germany has provided an additional 15 million Euros for IED removal in a stabilization context in Iraq. We are aiming to maintain this level of commitment in 2017 and are currently funding projects in 14 countries and regions around the world.

We would also like to thank our implementing partners for their impressive commitment: Our projects are implemented by NGOs, UN organisations and the ICRC. Many of their staff risk their lives every day to rid the world of cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

Another important aspect of our support is the development of practical tools and guidelines that can guide States Parties in their efforts to fulfil commitments under this Convention. The work of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is essential for progress in this regard and we support its work both financially and technically.

Since data on the situation in individual countries and their needs is necessary for the provision of effective aid, we made another significant contribution to this year's publication of the CMC's *Cluster Munition Monitor*.

Thank you, Mr. President.