



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE  
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Geneva, 16 – 19 April 2012

**German Statement on Cooperation and Assistance**

Mister / Madame Chair,

let me thank Mexico and Spain for the excellent preparation of this session.

In partnership with experienced organizations on the ground, the German government assists countries to clear mines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance mainly when such contamination causes social and economic problems for local communities. The aim of the assistance is not just to help reduce poverty and promote development but also and most importantly to ensure people's physical safety and alleviate suffering. The assistance is also intended to help affected countries fulfilling their obligations under the Ottawa, Cluster Munitions and UN Conventional Weapons Conventions.

The German government has for many years made large sums available for humanitarian mine and ordnance clearance. Since 1992 it has provided some 223 million Euro for such projects in 42 different countries.

In 2012 Germany has allocated an amount of 18,4 million Euro for mine action projects including several victim assistance and MRE projects.

Projects in affected states which addressed all three threats – landmines unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions - funded by Germany are:

- Afghanistan – four projects
- Africa – eleven projects
- SE-Asia – eight projects
- Central Asia – one project in Tajikistan
- Balkan region – five projects
- Middle East region – six projects
- Support for GICHD and ICBL/CMC activities – three projects
- Support of victim assistance and mine risk education for the states Afghanistan, Cambodia, Columbia, Lao PDR, Libya, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Viet Nam with an amount of approx. 1 Mio. €
- Specific projects which addressed mainly cluster munitions are supported within Lao PDR, Lebanon, Serbia and Viet Nam.

Furthermore strengthening the health sector is a specific focus in our development cooperation. The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development assists its partner countries with specific measures to help people with disabilities and designs its development cooperation in an increasingly inclusive way. Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and of other kind of munitions benefit from these measures. An age and gender sensitive orientation is part of the main principles of all measures.

Germany would like to encourage all States Parties to accept the still existing challenges in the fields of demining and victim assistance.

States affected by mines and explosive remnants of war should live up to their responsibility based on the obligations of the Conventions mentioned above.

Building up efficient and sustainable local capacities is of utmost importance, since responsibility for mine action lies exclusively in the hands of the affected countries.

In the long term, national ownership is the key to the success of all our activities.

All States Parties should accept their obligations to assist affected states in their efforts related to humanitarian demining. Germany welcomes all the efforts to achieve a deeper co-operation and coordination among the affected states and donor states, and encourages all partners to identify and use, in a non-prejudicial manner, practical synergies in the implementation of the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions, and the CCW.

Germany will stay committed to mine action based on the implementation of the Cartagena and Vientiane Action Plan, and will remain a reliable partner to affected states.

Thank you, Mister / Madame Chair.