



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Oslo, 11 – 14 September 2012

**Statement by Germany on Clearance and Risk Reduction**

Chair,

Germany has repeatedly informed partners about the suspected contamination of the former military training area of Wittstock in the German federal state of Brandenburg with unexploded ordnance, including cluster munition remnants, dating from the period when it was used by the Soviet and later Russian armed forces. In early October 2011, ownership of the area, which had hitherto been under military supervision, was transferred to the government authority in charge of real estate (Bundesanstalt für Immobilien-Aufgaben, BImA).

Since the Intersessional Meeting in Geneva (April 2012), the following progress has been made:

- It is envisaged that the main elements stipulated in the Infrastructure Plan will be in place before the end of 2013, with the result that the technical survey can be commenced thereafter in the defined test areas. The implementation of this part of the prevention plan is a crucial prerequisite for the continuation of the technical survey, mainly to ensure the occupational safety of the personnel involved in the clearing.

- Test areas are to be established in the section of the site where contamination by cluster munitions is suspected (approx. 400 ha in the eastern centre of the training area) with the aim of better delimiting the area of suspected contamination and/or ruling out such contamination in specific areas or even across the whole site.

- If the survey of these areas does not rule out contamination, the necessary clearance of the identified UXO (cluster munitions and any other munitions found) will then be commenced.

The utmost is being done in order to obtain timely results from the survey. Germany will keep the States Parties and signatories informed about further developments.

Thank you, Chair.