



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 Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Mr. President,

Germany previously possessed more than 520.000 cluster munitions of 16 different types, containing some 60 million submunitions of 14 different types. As of 30 June 2012, the remaining stockpile to be destroyed comprised approximately 129.000 cluster munitions with a total of approximately 21.000.000 submunitions and bomblets.

In order to illustrate this ongoing process, I would like to draw your attention to the graphic on the following slide.

Slide please

SLIDE 1

For the sake of clarity, we have divided the different types of cluster munitions into four different groups. The timeline is at the bottom of the slide. As you can see, up to the end of 2015 we have a milestone roughly every year, finishing the destruction of different groups of munitions in 2012, 13, 14 and finally 2015.

Also depicted on this slide are the projected costs of the destruction of the various munitions types.

As explained in previous statements, Germany intends, in accordance with Article 3 of the convention, to retain a certain number of cluster munitions, including explosive submunitions as well as bomblets. The exact figures of the necessary amounts of each type are reported in our national Article-7-report 2011.

These cluster munitions as well as individual explosive submunitions and individual bomblets, which are gained from cluster munitions, are being retained by the Federal Office of Defence Technology and Procurement as well as the Federal Armed Forces. The numbers result mainly from the estimations of the various types of cluster munitions and submunitions required for training EOD personnel at licensed schools and training facilities for a period of ten years.

I would like to elaborate a little bit more on the details of this EOD training.

Slide please

SLIDE 2

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) are a constant and dangerous threat not only to the civilian population but also to our military personnel in foreign deployments. Therefore, it is our duty with regard to the life and safety of our soldiers as well as to innocent bystanders, to give our EOD experts the best training possible.

In order to guarantee the necessary high level of expertise, current EOD training programs include practical exercises with live munitions. On average, this means that two to four items of live munitions are expended during the course for each participant.

In view of the increasing IED danger faced by the German armed forces and informed by experience in Afghanistan, we plan to slightly intensify EOD training in the near future. Furthermore the German Army is broadening the locations of its training which will all in all result in an estimated increase in consumption of individual submunitions of approximately 30% from 2013 onwards.

This results in the calculated demand per year, as shown on this slide.

Some types of submunitions, previously designated for training will not now be used for this purpose and will be instead destroyed, resulting in a further decrease in the numbers retained.

An overview of the planned timelines regarding EOD training is given on the following slide.

Slide please

SLIDE 3

This slide shows the currently scheduled numbers of courses and continuation training as well as the estimated consumption of munitions.

As you can see the complete stock of retained cluster munitions will be used up even earlier than 2020 as well as approximately 50% of the retained submunitions.

Please note that these figures are projections based on current planning.

Slide please

SLIDE 4

Aside from EOD training, cluster munitions and submunitions of various types are also retained for the following permitted purposes:

- Development of safeguards against the effects of submunitions.
- Testing and evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against the effects of submunition explosions.
- Testing of detection technologies.
- Testing and evaluation of metal detectors and multi sensor systems.
- Testing and evaluation of mechanical demining equipment.
- Documentation and studying of the ageing process of explosives contained in these munitions to develop specific disposal/clearing methods.

Germany is pleased to report that retained cluster munitions and submunitions which are no longer necessary for either training or for technical purposes will be marked for destruction in addition to the numbers already notified in the article 7 report 2011. The forthcoming national article 7 report 2012 will reflect this development accordingly.

Moreover, these calculations will be kept under constant review, considering the military needs as well as the spirit of this treaty, to ensure that we retain only the minimum quantity of cluster munitions necessary for permitted development and training.

Thank you, Mr. President.