



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**MEETING OF THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Oslo, 11 – 14 September 2012

German Statement on Cooperation and Assistance

Mr. President,

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 the countries concerned to fulfil 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 224 million Euro for such projects in 45 different countries.

2012 Germany has allocated an amount of 19.6° million Euro for mine action projects including several victim assistance and MRE projects.

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

- Afghanistan – four projects are funded with an amount of approx. 5.8 million. €,
- Africa – eleven projects – 3.67 million €
- South America – three projects in Colombia – 600,000 €
- SE-Asian – eleven projects – 3.86 million €
- Central Asian – one project in Tadzhikistan 830,000 €
- Balkan region – six projects with an amount of approx. 2 million €,
- Middle East region – six projects – 1.71million €
- Support for GICHD and ICBL/CMC activities – three projects – 500,000 €
- Support of victim assistance and mine risk education for the states Afghanistan, Cambodia, Columbia, Eritrea, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria – one MRE project for refugees conducted in Jordan - and Uganda with an amount of approx. 1.89 Mio. €
- Specific projects which addressed mainly cluster munitions are supported within Lao PDR, Lebanon and Viet Nam.

Furthermore, in many developing countries the strengthening of the health sector is a focus in the 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 increasingly inclusive. 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-Convention, and the CCW.

Germany will stay committed to mine action based on the implementation of the Cartagena and Vientiane Action Plan, and will be a reliable partner to the supported affected states by Germany in the near future.

Thank you, Mr. President.