



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

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

Beirut, 16 September 2011

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance

Ambassador Brigitta Maria Siefker-Eberle

Mister President,

Let me start by thanking South Africa for its work in the field of cooperation and assistance. It is of great humanitarian importance to facilitate the provision of assistance and to promote cooperation between states and other actors.

States affected by cluster munitions and states with stockpiles should live up to their responsibilities based on the obligations of the Convention. Building efficient and sustainable local capacities is of utmost importance. In the long term, national ownership is key to the success of the Convention. At the same time, all States Parties should accept their obligations to assist affected states in their efforts related to humanitarian demining.

Germany welcomes all efforts aiming at strengthening cooperation and coordination between affected states and donor states to ensure a balanced distribution of resources and to identify synergies in our cooperation and assistance.

Germany's commitment towards clearance of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war finds expression in our financial engagements. 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. An age and gender sensitive orientation is part of the main principles of all measures.

Germany does not distinguish between the clearance of cluster munitions and anti personnel mines or any other explosive remnants of war. The German government has for many years made large sums available for humanitarian mine and ordnance clearance. Thus far, Germany has granted some 216 million Euros for clearance, mines risk education and victim assistance to 42 affected countries on a bilateral basis. This does not include our share of the EU funding. In 2011 alone, almost 16 million Euros have been granted to 26 countries worldwide.

Germany also continues to stand ready to provide technical assistance in stockpile destruction.

For Lebanon, Germany has provided 2,6 million Euros for clearance projects since 2007. We are pleased with the tremendous progress in these projects, owing to a great extent to the strong commitment and dedication of the Lebanese Mine Action Center under the leadership of General Mohammed Fahmi, the civil society and the many Lebanese deminers. It is my great pleasure to announce today that in 2012, Germany will contribute another 700.000 Euros for clearance projects of landmines and cluster munitions in Lebanon.

Mister President,

I can assure you that Germany will continue its strong commitment in the years to come.

Thank you, Mr. President.