



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

8TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Geneva, 03.-05. September 2018

Statement on Universalisation by Germany

Mr. President,

Please allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the office of president. I would like to pledge my delegation's full support in the discharge of your important office. Let me thank the thematic coordinators and the coordination committee as a whole for their important contribution to this conference.

It is good to see that the Convention is progressing towards universality. We welcome Benin, Namibia and Sri Lanka as the most recent States Parties. We also would like to congratulate Croatia and Spain for recently fulfilling their respective deadlines. The joining of three states as well as the continuous effort to advance the Convention's goals reflect the growing international consensus to ban the use, development, production, and

stockpiling of cluster munitions. Germany remains firmly committed to the principle of universality and calls upon all states to ratify or accede to the Convention.

The fact that there is still room for further universalisation was again underlined by last year's General Assembly Resolution 72/54 on the implementation of the Cluster munition Convention which was tabled by Germany as the president of the 7th Meeting of States Parties. With 141 votes in favour and only 2 votes against the resolution sent a strong signal to UN member states and should encourage us to approach states that might be willing to join.

In this context I would like to reiterate that we consider the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an integral part of international humanitarian law. Its effective implementation is crucial in order to protect civilians from the indiscriminate and injurious effects of cluster munitions.

I am happy to report that we have continued over the intersessional period with bilateral outreach in pursuance of moving the treaty towards universality.

Germany stands ready to continue coordinating military to military dialogue with Non-States Parties as commanded during our presidency.

We strongly condemn the reported use of cluster munitions the conflict areas of the Middle East and call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using these weapons.

Mr. President,

Concerning the former Soviet military training site close to Wittstock, Germany is working strenuously on the site to clear the cluster munition remnants. However, the undertaking is proving complex. In order to share our experience as well as learn from other States Parties and expert organisations, we cordially invite all interested participants to attend our Side Event today. The side-event will take place at 1.15 PM in Room XXV. This event will outline in detail the ongoing work on the site, the methods employed and difficulties experienced.

Let me finally say a few words about cooperation and assistance. The efforts of all States Parties to the Convention are remarkable

and cooperation as well as assistance is necessary to reach our shared ambition of a world free of cluster munitions.

I would also like to highlight that Germany is one of the largest contributors to mine action – both in the context of humanitarian assistance and stabilization.

In 2017, Germany has been able to double its funding for the second year in a row. We have contributed 75 million Euros to mine action projects in 14 countries and regions around the world – a record contribution for Germany.

Humanitarian mine action is crucial for saving the “lives and limbs” of the affected population, ensuring access for humanitarian aid and allowing the safe and dignified return of refugees and IDPs.

We would also like to thank our implementing partners for their impressive commitment: Our projects are implemented by NGOs, UN organisations and the ICRC. Many of their staff risk their lives every day to rid the world of cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

Another important aspect of our support is the development of practical tools and guidelines that can guide States Parties in their efforts to fulfil commitments under this Convention. The work of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is essential for progress in this regard and we support its work both financially and technically.

Since data on the situation in individual countries and their needs is necessary for the provision of effective aid, we made continue to provide financial support for the publication of the CMC's *Cluster Munition Monitor*.

We are ready to continue both our efforts to strengthen the Convention on Cluster Munitions and our financial support for clearing cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

Thank you, Mr. President.