



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

6TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Geneva, 05.-07. September 2016

Statement by Germany

Mister President,

Please allow me to thank my colleague from the Netherlands for his excellent work as President of this meeting and the thematic coordinators for their important contribution to this conference. We align ourselves with the Statement of the European Union.

Since the first Review Conference in Dubrovnik last year we welcome Cuba, Palau, Mauritius, Colombia, as well as Somalia as States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Their joining of the Convention reflects the growing international consensus to ban the use, development, production, and stockpiling of cluster munitions. We can be proud that within just a few years, the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions has grown to 99. Germany stays firmly

committed to the principle of universality and calls upon all states to ratify or accede to the Convention.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is 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. We strongly condemn the reported use of cluster munitions and call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using these weapons.

Mister President,

Concerning the former military training site close to Wittstock Germany established the necessary fire paths to proceed with the decontamination of an area of estimated 11 square kilometres of ShOAB-0.5 contamination. Despite complex environmental regulations and difficult terrain, we already cleared a number of explosive submunitions on the site. Last year 4 of them were destroyed.

As announced during the last year's review conference, Germany completed the destruction of its former stockpiles of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions on 25 November 2015. This event took place at the ammunition disassembly and recycling company NAMMO BUCK in Pinnow, near Berlin, in the presence of members of the Sub-Committee for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation of the German parliament, media representatives and a representative from Handicap International. We will elaborate on the challenges and lessons learnt, in the storage and stockpile destruction segment.

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.

It is in this spirit that Germany, together with other partners, supported the work of the NATO trust fund for Ukraine which funds the destruction of antipersonnel mines and conventional ammunition including cluster munitions.

Germany remains committed to providing substantial support for risk education, mine clearance, and victim assistance. In 2015 Germany spent more than 13 million euros on related projects all

around the world. Our programmes are conducted by capable implementing partners such as Handicap International, MAG, the Halo Trust and the ICRC – to name just a few. We would like to thank them for their commitment.

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.

Another aspect of German support to the realisation of the Convention which we would like to briefly highlight is our contribution to the new ISU this year.

Since data on the situation in individual countries and their needs is necessary for the provision of effective aid, we are financing this year's entire publication of the CMC's *Cluster Munition Monitor* and we invite delegations to attend the presentation of the newest edition of the monitor today at 1 PM.

We are also glad to draw the attention of delegations to a short video screened right outside the conference room on the First Review Conference in Dubrovnik and the side event which Germany organized with Croatia and Handicap International.

Thank you, Mister President.