



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Dubrovnik, 7–11 September 2015

Statement at the High Level Segment by Germany

Mister President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to Croatia for hosting the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the beautiful town of Dubrovnik and for the excellent preparation of documents in the run-up to this conference. We would also like to thank the former presidency Costa Rica and the thematic coordinators for their valuable work over the past year. We align ourselves with the Statement of the European Union.

It is very significant that the mine action community has come together in Croatia – where cluster munitions were used in an

attack on the city of Zagreb on 2 and 3 May 1995 during the war in former Yugoslavia.

This meeting is taking place only five years after the Convention's entry into force. We can be proud that within just a few years, the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions has grown to 94. We hope that this Review Conference will encourage even more States to do so – especially the ones that have signed but not yet ratified the Convention and the ones that already participate regularly as observers. Universalisation of the Convention is imperative for an effective ban of cluster munitions in the world.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important treaty within the sphere 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 munition and call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using these weapons.

Mister President,

Germany still has obligations to fulfil under this Convention. An area of approximately eleven square kilometres within the former military training area of the Soviet Armed Forces in the locality of Wittstock is thought to be contaminated with submunitions of type ShOAB 0.5. We extended the suspected area to eleven square kilometers last year because our on-going non-technical survey provided evidence of earlier findings of submunitions within an area of a greater radius. The area in question is characterised by a high level of contamination with explosive ordnance of various kinds, especially ordnance with considerable explosive power, as well as deposited scrap metal.

After carrying out extensive non-technical and technical surveys, we have cleared 46 kilometres of affected roads so far to guarantee safe access to the area which has been declared a Natura 2000 site under the EU Habitats Directive. Taking conservation objectives and protection purposes into consideration we are currently in the process of planning the final steps to clear the area of ShOAB 0.5 submunitions. The clearance operations of a subarea will start in the first quarter of 2016.

Germany is also in the process of completing the destruction of the Federal Armed Forces' remaining stockpiles of cluster munitions. We are very satisfied that the destruction will be accomplished within the next few weeks.

In April we shared our expertise and best practices in dismantling cluster munitions, recycling their casings and disposing of materials at the 12th International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition – Mine Action 2015, organised by the Centre for Security Cooperation RACVIAC. Since RACVIAC's foundation in 2000, we have worked closely together with this important centre for regional security cooperation and arms control in Croatia and we are pleased to support its mine action symposium every year.

Cooperation and assistance among States Parties is necessary to support affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. Germany remains committed to providing substantial support for risk education, mine clearance, and victim assistance. In 2014 Germany spent more than 13.2 million euros on this. Our programmes are conducted by capable implementing partners such as Handicap International, MAG, Halo Trust and the

ICRC – to name just a few. We would like to thank them for their engagement. Germany also provides substantial annual support to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), both financially and technically. Since data on the situation in individual countries and their needs are necessary for the provision of effective aid, we are financing this year's entire publication of the CMC's *Cluster Munition Monitor*. The new *Monitor* will be presented to you at a side event during the lunch break today. I hope you will find it helpful in your work.

Mister President,

The Convention on Cluster Munitions has raised broad international awareness which goes well beyond States Parties' official adherence. Cluster munition today is widely seen for what it is, a terrible weapon which causes tremendous human suffering. It is important to continue finding ways to communicate this to the broader public. On Wednesday evening we will organize together with the Croatian Government Office for Mine Action and Handicap International an inclusive "sitting volleyball" match with players from the Croatian towns of Knin and Split as well as some delegates from the States Parties. The match will be followed by a

reception. You are all cordially invited to attend this event here at the hotel. For more information we have provided you with some flyers.

We welcome the decision taken by the States Parties at the 4MSP to establish an Implementation Support Unit. I would like to congratulate Ms. Sheila Mweemba for assuming her job as Director of the ISU. We are confident that you will contribute to the timely implementation of the Convention's provisions. We would also like to thank the Co-Coordiators, the Netherlands and Lebanon, for their elaboration of a financing model. Germany is ready to support a compromise among the States Parties on a sustainable and cost-saving financing model. On the frequency of meetings Germany would prefer option 2.

Thank you, Mister President.