



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

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

Beirut, 15 September 2011

Statement on Clearance by Germany

Madam President,

Germany would like to briefly update the meeting about the suspect hazardous area under its jurisdiction, on which Germany informed States Parties and signatories already at the intersessional meeting. Before doing so, let me thank Australia for its valuable work as “Friend of the President” on clearance and risk reduction. The Australian working paper on the application of all available methods for the efficient implementation of Article 4 provides an excellent approach for enhanced efficiency in clearance and merits our full support.

Initially, a survey on potential future uses of a former military training area, located in the German federal state of Brandenburg (former GDR), investigated the extent of contamination with, inter alia, unexploded ordnance. Its results were presented at the beginning of 2011. It concluded that the Wittstock former military training area probably still contains, amongst other unexploded ordnance, cluster munitions dating from the period of its use by Soviet Armed Forces.

Cluster munitions were principally found in the confines of a target range. This is located in the southern part of the Wittstock training area. The suspect area encompasses approximately 400 Hectares (4 square Kilometres).

Effective exclusion of civilians is ensured: The whole training area is unambiguously and extensively marked with warning signs, identifying it as a military area. Access is forbidden for unauthorised personnel. A security company monitors and controls the area.

Since June this year a survey has been put out to tender. It will determine the exact extent of the contamination and identify the precise extent of the area that might have to be cleared.

Germany will certainly keep States Parties and signatories informed about further developments in the future.

Thank you very much, Madam President.