



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

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

Lusaka, 9–13 September 2013

**General Statement by Germany**

(delivered by Ambassador Michael Biontino on 10 September 2013)

Mdme. President,

let me welcome you to the chair of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munition. Germany is grateful to the government of Zambia for organizing and hosting this meeting.

Zambia played an influential leadership role during the Oslo Process, has been one of the first 30 states that have signed the convention and triggered its entry into force in 2010. It is of great value that we meet here, on a continent that has been heavily affected by the inhuman use of cluster munitions. We hope that this meeting will encourage more states to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Let me thank as well the Kingdom of Norway, and in particular Ambassador Kongstad, for the hard work and the way they conducted last year's presidency. I align myself with the Statement of the EU.

We all agree that this Convention is an important achievement as it promotes international disarmament and international humanitarian law in a very visible manner. It

gives its members a chance to cooperate even closer in humanitarian demining and victims assistance. We therefore consider the Convention on Cluster Munition as a milestone on the way to a safer world.

Unfortunately, these hazardous weapons – stigmatized in public opinion – are still being used as well against civilians in many parts of the world. We are deeply concerned about reports that cluster munitions have been used in the conflict in Syria. This is one more reason why universalization must remain an important goal of our common activities. The German government continues to call upon states who are not yet members to join the Convention.

Germany has been a strong supporter of a comprehensive ban on cluster munitions from the very beginning. It supported the negotiating process from the start and it became the eleventh country to complete the ratification process (in 2009). We will complete the destruction of our remaining stocks of cluster munitions in 2015 – three years ahead of the deadline.

Germany will continue to assist affected states in fulfilling their obligations and in dealing with the multiple problems that cluster munitions and unexploded ordnances pose to civilians, even for a long time after the end of conflicts. Germany funds humanitarian demining activities, projects of victims assistance and stockpile destruction in a number of partner states.

Mdme. President,

A number of problems and questions have to be addressed in order to make the work of the Convention on Cluster Munition more effective, and to solve administrative questions in a consensual way. Let me assure you that my delegation will do everything to support you during this meeting in order to make the 4MSP a success.

In our view we should be able to reach consensus in the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit as decided in Beyrouth in order to provide the Convention on Cluster Munitions with a permanent and effective implementation mechanism; if necessary in disassociating the establishment of an ISU, from a permanent financing mechanism. This could be one of the successes of Lusaka.

Thank you.