



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

FOURTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Lusaka, 9–13 September 2013

Statement by Germany on Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Mr. President,

Germany previously possessed more than 540.000 cluster munitions of 16 different types, containing some 60 million submunitions of 14 different types. As at 31 December 2012, the remaining stockpile to be destroyed comprised approximately 108.000 cluster munitions (20%) with a total of approximately 18 million submunitions and bomblets (29%).

Germany is therefore well on track to completely fulfil its obligations under this convention.

Several technical obstacles had to be overcome in the development of destruction processes for some types of munitions. The completion of destruction for certain 155mm munitions, which was planned for the end of 2012, has had to be rescheduled to the end of this year. According to current plans, this will enable us to complete the destruction of two munitions groups by the end of 2013, the destruction of all DM 632 by the end of 2014 and the final completion of all remaining destruction by the end of 2015.

Please note that these figures are projections based on current planning. Unforeseen technical challenges may require further adjustment to these plans in the future.

As explained in previous statements, Germany intends, in accordance with Article 3 of the convention, to retain a certain number of cluster munitions, including explosive submunitions and bomblets, for training and other permitted purposes. The exact quantities required of each type were reported in our national Article 7 reports in 2011 and 2012.

These cluster munitions, as well as individual sole explosive submunitions and bomblets, which have been removed from cluster munitions, are being retained by the Federal Office of Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support the former Federal Office of Defence Technology and Procurement as well as the Federal Armed Forces. The numbers are derived mainly from the estimates of the various types of cluster munitions and submunitions required for training Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel at licenced schools and training facilities for a projected period of ten years.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) are a constant and dangerous threat not only to the civilian population, but also to our military personnel in foreign deployments. Therefore, it is our duty with regard to the life and safety of our soldiers, as well as to innocent bystanders, to ensure that our EOD experts receive the best training possible.

In order to guarantee the necessary high level of expertise, current EOD training programs include practical exercises with live munitions.

In addition to EOD training, cluster munitions and submunitions of various types are retained for the following permitted purposes:

- Development of safeguards against the effects of submunitions.

- Testing and evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against the effects of submunition explosions.
- Testing of detection technologies.
- Testing and evaluation of metal detectors and multi sensor systems.
- Testing and evaluation of mechanical demining equipment.
- Documentation and studies of the ageing process of explosives contained in these munitions, to develop specific disposal or clearing methods.

The calculations and plans for the retention of selected items are kept under constant review, thus upholding the spirit of this convention without neglecting our responsibility for the safety and security of our men and women in current and future operations. Thus, we can ensure that we retain only the very minimum quantity of cluster munitions necessary for permitted development and training.

Thank you, Mr. President.