



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

**FIFTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES (5MSP)
TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

San José, 2–5 September 2014

General Statement by Germany

Senor Presidente,

yo quisiera agradecer a Costa Rica por la excelente preparación de la Quinta Reunión de Estados Parte de la Convención ^{sobre} Municiones en Racimo. This is the first MSP to take place in Latin America. Please let me ensure you of our full cooperation in your endeavour to lead our meeting to a successful outcome. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Coordinators of the various committees.

I align myself with the Statement of the European Union.

This meeting marks four years since the Convention's entry into force. It is time to assess the achievements to date and identify remaining challenges. In just a few years time, the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions has grown to 84 States. I am pleased to recall that since the 4MSP, St. Kitts and Nevis have acceded to the Convention. I hope that this meeting will encourage more States to do so – especially the 29 States that have signed but not ratified the treaty. Further universalization of the Convention is imperative for the effective stigmatization of cluster munitions!

* I am pleased to hear that Belize will deposit its instrument of

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important treaty of international humanitarian law. Its effective implementation is crucial in order to protect civilians from the devastating effects of cluster munitions. Cluster munitions were widely used in international and internal armed conflicts alike. They continue to pose a threat to civilians long after hostilities have ceased.

Germany has never used cluster munitions and will complete the destruction of its remaining stocks until the end of 2015 – two and a half years ahead of the deadline. Speaking about the destruction of cluster munition stockpiles, I would like to congratulate Denmark for being the first State Party that has destroyed all of its stockpiles.

Cooperation and assistance among States Parties is indispensable in order to support affected states in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In this regard, Germany is privileged to provide substantial support for cluster munitions clearance, stockpile destruction and other activities related to the objectives of the Convention. In 2013 Germany spent more than 15 million EUR for this purpose.

Unfortunately, cluster munitions are reportedly still being used in parts of the world. Germany is particularly concerned about the use of cluster munitions in Syria and in South Sudan and calls upon both governments to stop using these weapons.

Germany welcomes the decision taken by the States Parties at the 4MSP to establish an Implementation Support Unit. We welcome the generous offer made by Switzerland to cover financial gaps during the period of the ISU's creation and the in-kind contributions offered by the *Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining* as the future host to the ISU. Germany is ready to support the ISU and appeals to all States Parties to implement the decision taken in Lusaka.

Mr. President,

My delegation is looking forward to this Meeting and will engage constructively in the discussions of States Parties, international organisations and NGOs on the progress made to date and the work ahead in the run-up to the First Review Conference.

Muchas gracias, Senor Presidente!