



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

## **9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Geneva, 02.-04. September 2019

### **Statement on Art. 4 Compliance**

Mr. President,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your election and assure you of our full support for your work as President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thank you for giving me the floor and for allowing me to describe once more the situation at the former military training site close to Wittstock/Brandenburg. I would also like to thank the Article 4 Analysis Group for its excellent work.

Germany has always acted in good faith when it comes to its obligations under Article 4. When ratifying the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Federal Government was not aware that the

above-mentioned former military training site was contaminated with cluster munitions.

The Site is about 12.000 hectares in size and was used as a military training facility from 1945 to 1993 both for air to ground targeting practices as well as ground operations.

Access to the site is limited to the owner, EOD operators and emergency services. The main entry points are barred and signs warn the public.

After thorough preparatory work on the site, including a survey and a fire protection system, the clearance work begun in March 2017.

The contaminated area on the site is estimated at 1100 hectares.

As of July this year we were able to clear about 213 hectares and found some 3300 cluster munition remnants.

Our article 4 deadline is coming up in 2020 and there are two main factors that led to our extension request:

Due to the vegetation on the site, there is the need for controlled burning in order to proceed with the clearance operation. Both

because of fire risks and for reasons of environmental protection, the progress has been slowed down. In addition to that, the high concentration of other ERW on the site is having an effect on the speed of the cluster munition-clearance.

Even though we are working with high pressure on the clearing of the former military training site close to Wittstock/Brandenburg, Germany will not be able to fulfil its obligations under article 4 of the Cluster Munition Convention by 2020.

Mr. President, we are confident that by 2025 Germany will be 100% Cluster Munition free and we hope that State Parties will vote in favor of our extension request.

Thank you, Mr. President.