



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 by Germany on universalisation**

Mr. President,

We align ourselves with the Statement of the European Union to be delivered later during today's session.

We welcome Namibia, Gambia and the Philippines as the newest States Parties. The joining of those countries as well as the continuous effort to advance the Convention's goals reflect the growing international consensus to ban the use, development, production, and stockpiling of cluster munitions. Germany stays firmly committed to the principle of universality and calls upon all states to ratify or accede to the Convention.

That there is still room for further universalisation was again underlined by last year's General Assembly Resolution 73/54 on

the implementation of the Cluster munition Convention. With 144 votes in favour and only one vote against the resolution sent a strong signal to UN member states and should encourage us to approach states that might be willing to join or support its humanitarian objective.

In this context I would like to reiterate that we consider the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an integral part of international humanitarian law. Its effective implementation is crucial in order to protect civilians from the indiscriminate and injurious effects of cluster munitions.

We strongly condemn the reported use of cluster munitions in the conflict areas of the Middle East and call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using these weapons. However, we feel encouraged by the continuing downward trend of use and victims numbers since 2009 which we take as a strong indicator of the convention's effectiveness.

Thank you, Mr. President.