

Allernagne

**INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Geneva, 28 June 2011

Statement by the Delegation of Germany

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by thanking Australia for its tremendous support in coordinating matters on clearance and for the preparation of an excellent paper on methods for the efficient implementation of Art. 4.

During last week's intersessional meeting in the framework of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Germany informed States Parties to that Convention about a previously unknown suspect hazardous area under its jurisdiction. We would like to use the opportunity today to also inform States Parties and signatories of the Convention on Cluster Munitions about it.

A survey on potential future uses of a former military training area, located in the German federal state of Brandenburg, investigated the extent of contamination with, inter alia, unexploded ordnance. The results of this survey were presented at the beginning of 2011. It concluded that the Wittstock former military training area probably still contains, amongst other unexploded ordnance, also cluster munitions, dating from the period of its use by Soviet Armed Forces.

Cluster munitions were principally found in the confines of a target range. This is located in the southern part of the Wittstock training area. The suspect area encompasses approximately 400 Hectares (4 square Kilometres).

Effective exclusion of civilians is ensured: The whole training area is unambiguously and extensively marked with warning signs, identifying it as a military area. Access is forbidden for unauthorised personnel. A security company monitors and controls the area.

As a next step, a further survey will determine the exact extent of the contamination and identify the precise extent of the remaining area that might have to be cleared.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.