



**SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE, SECOND PART
OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

20 - 21 September 2021, Geneva

Statement by Germany during Item 7

Reaffirming the determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions

Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor at this second part of the Second Review Conference, Germany wishes to thank you Mr. President, once again for convening and chairing this conference. Germany would like to assure you of our full cooperation and continuous support in your work. We recognize the exceptional challenges due to the Covid-19-pandemic in organising this conference and commend you on your highly professional and dedicated conduct of business despite all difficulties. We would also like to thank again the thematic coordinators for their valuable work over the past years as well as the ISU for their support to State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention.

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Germany remains fully committed to fulfil its obligations under this Convention and reaffirms its determination to put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions.

Concerning the process of completing the destruction of the Federal Armed Forces' remaining stockpiles of cluster munitions, we are proud to state that the

destruction has been accomplished in November 2015, i.e. three years in advance of the deadline, despite the high volume of Cluster Munitions to be destroyed.

In accordance with Art. 5 of this Convention, Germany retains a small volume of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for training and research purposes. Wherever possible, Germany is committed to use substitutes for cluster munition and explosive submunitions, for instance for training on detection of cluster munition, where substitutes work well. The use of substitutes is in our view however limited when it comes to realistic trainings on the correct destruction of cluster munition and explosive submunitions. Since Germany uses cluster munition in these trainings, we experience a continued reduction of the retained cluster munition and explosive submunitions.

Germany is also committed to assist affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In 2020, Germany has allocated 49 Million EUR for the clearance of cluster munition, mines and other explosive remnants of war as well as for victim assistance and risk awareness activities. Priority is in general given to projects and countries that seek to fulfill their obligations under this Convention, as well as the Ottawa Convention and the CCW. Our programmes are conducted by many capable implementing partners and we would like to thank them, especially the colleagues in the field, for their engagement.

Since data on the situation in individual countries and their needs are necessary for the provision of effective aid, we are also supporting this year again the publication of the Cluster Munition Monitor.

In view of our commitment to Cooperation and Assistance, we would therefore be honoured if you would consider our candidacy for the Coordination Committee of the Convention.

Finally, concerning the clearance of contaminated area, Germany still has obligations to fulfil, as stated also during the first part of the Review Conference.

Germany is currently conducting clearance at the former military training site of the former Soviet Union close to Wittstock/Brandenburg. Since the start of clearance works in 2017 until the end of 2020 some 353 hectare of the total size of 1100 hectare of cluster munition remnant contaminated area at Wittstock has been cleared.

Due to European public procurement law, a new tender work on explosive ordnance disposal was necessary this year. Our experience gained in recent years has been taken into account in the invitation to tender, with a higher number of workforce foreseen. Two of the three concluded contracts began in August/September, the third contract will start in the first days of October 2021. With these contracts, we will be able to increase the number of clearance personnel from 135 in 2020 to 180 to 200 people until end of October.

In sum, Mr. President, we remain confident that by 2025 Germany will be 100% Cluster Munition free.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions has raised broad international awareness. Cluster munition today is widely seen for what it is: a terrible weapon, which causes tremendous human suffering. We strongly condemn the reported use of cluster munition in Syria, Yemen, Libya and in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since the first Review Conference and call upon all governments and all actors to refrain from using these weapons.

Therefore, universalisation of the convention as well as effective implementation is imperative for an effective ban of cluster munitions in the world. The accession of four new State parties since 2019 as well as the clearance of all cluster-contaminated areas in ten State Parties in the last ten years, are hopeful signals. We hope that this Review Conference will encourage even more States to accede to the convention - – especially the ones that have signed but not yet ratified the Convention and the ones that already participate regularly as observers.

A helpful tool to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention as well as to convince other State Parties to join, especially countries that are cluster-contaminated, remains in our view the Country Coalition Concept, that we introduced during our presidency at the 7th Meeting of State Parties in 2017. We believe that this concept can enhance cooperation and coordination by tailoring assistance to the specific needs and challenges faced by an affected State. Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina decided to take up a country coalition in 2019 at the Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, that in our view also extends to cluster munition.

We encourage other State Parties to also set-up country coalitions and stand ready for any questions or exchanges on our experiences.

Thank you, Mister President.