



10TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Geneva, 30.08. – 02.09.2022

Statement by Germany during item 8 *General exchange of views*

Mr. President,

As this is the first time we take the floor, Germany wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for your able stewardship of the convention and for convening and chairing this meeting. Germany would like to assure you of our full cooperation and continuous support in your work. We would also like to thank the ISU for their tremendous support to State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. We thank in particular the outgoing ISU Director, Sheila Mweemba, for her very engaged and always helpful support to States Parties and office holders over many years. Finally, we also want to thank the thematic coordinators for their important contribution to the success of this 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.

Reports on the use of cluster munition by Russian troops in Ukraine, particularly the use of these weapons against targets near schools, hospitals and in residential areas of Ukrainian cities, must be of grave concern to the entire international community. Furthermore, Germany unequivocally condemns any targeted use of cluster munition

directed against civilians or civilian objects as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

Beyond the violations of *ius in bello*, Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia has violated the UN Charter and other fundamental principles of international law. We call on Russia to put an end to the war it started and to end the tragic suffering and loss of life it continues to cause.

The Convention on Cluster Munition has raised broad awareness. Cluster munition today is widely seen for what it is: a terrible weapon, which causes tremendous human suffering. We therefore strongly condemn the use of cluster munition in Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Libya and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and call upon all state and non-state actors to refrain from the use cluster munition that causes unacceptable harm to civilian populations and objects.

The effective implementation as well as the universalisation of the convention is crucial in order to protect civilians from the indiscriminate and injurious effects of cluster munitions. We applaud the global efforts that, in the past decade, led to major cluster munition clearance and submunitions destruction. And we welcome that States Parties reaffirmed their determination to advance towards the full universalization of the Convention and the promotion of its norms, as well as towards its full implementation in the Lausanne Action Plan.

Concerning the full and universal implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munition, Germany takes its responsibility to assist affected States Parties in fulfilling their obligation under the Convention very seriously. In 2021, Germany has allocated 55 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, advocacy, and stockpile destruction. Priority is in general given to projects and

countries that seek to fulfil their obligations under this Convention, as well as the Ottawa Convention and the CCW.

Our programmes are conducted by many capable implementing partners. Germany would like to take this opportunity to thank all partner organisations – NGOs as well as UN organisations – in the field and their teams, who do an invaluable work in often dangerous situations. It is of utmost importance that the independence and neutrality of humanitarian mine action NGOs is being respected. Germany thus calls on all State Parties to assure and respect the necessary working conditions of our partner organisations.

In order to effectively direct aid and focus our commitment, data on the situation in individual countries and their needs are crucial. Therefore, the Cluster Munition Monitor constitutes an indispensable tool which we are again supporting this year.

In view of this commitment to Cooperation and Assistance, we are honoured to currently serve – together with Montenegro - as coordinator of the Committee for Cooperation and Assistance of the Convention.

Germany welcomes the commitment to gender mainstreaming across the Convention as decided by States Parties at the Second Review Conference and would join a consensus on the terms of reference for the gender focal point.

Finally, Germany still has obligations to fulfil under Article 4 of the Convention and is working on the clearance of a former military training site that has been used by forces of the former Warsaw Pact from 1953 to 1993 close to Wittstock/Brandenburg, including as a bombing range. Since 2017 to June this year, around 5.12 square kilometres have been cleared. A total of 5,868 cluster sub-munitions have been detected, recovered and destroyed, along with many other pieces of UXO. We will

provide an update on the efforts as well as the challenges to clear this site later during this Meeting of States Parties.

Thank you, Mister President.