



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

11TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Geneva, 11. - 14.09.2023

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

Mr. President,

First of all I would like to join others in thanking you, Mr. President, for your able stewardship of the convention throughout the past year and I can assure you of the full cooperation and continuous support of my delegation 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 and commend the members of the eight Committees for their excellent work over the past period. Finally, we congratulate Ms Pamela Moraga. We wish you all the best and assure you our full cooperation in your work as CCM ISU Director!

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.

The use of cluster munitions continues to inflict devastating harm on civilians during armed conflicts and long after hostilities cease. We are deeply concerned by the tremendous human suffering that this weapon causes. We therefore **continue to condemn any use of cluster munitions by any actor**. In 2022, we have seen the highest annual number of people killed and injured by cluster munitions since the Cluster Munition Monitor began reporting in 2010. More than 90% of the registered casualties were civilians. In 2022, the majority of the victims have been registered in Ukraine, casualties of the attacks by Russian forces.

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.

We call upon all state and non-state actors to refrain from using cluster munitions that causes severe harm to civilian populations and infrastructure.

Mr. President,

Despite these worrying developments, there are also **success stories**.

On this note, we **welcome South Sudan and Nigeria as new State Parties** to the Convention!

[The universalisation as well as the effective implementation of the convention is crucial in order to protect civilians from the indiscriminate and injurious effects of cluster munitions and in order to strengthen international humanitarian law. We applaud the global efforts that, in the past 15 years, led to major cluster munition clearance and submunitions destruction.]

We congratulate Bulgaria and Slovakia for having destroyed their stockpiled cluster munition. Germany is committed to support State Parties on their way to the full implementation of the

Convention. This is why we **continue to support Peru in its commitment to destroy their cluster munition stockpiles.**

Germany is unwaveringly committed to assist affected States Parties. This means not only continuing but increasing support: We will spend **up to 70 Mio. EUR in 2023 for humanitarian mine action alone**, dedicated to the clearance of cluster munition, mines and other explosive remnants of war as well as victim assistance, risk education activities and advocacy. We implement projects inter alia in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and South Sudan.

[In addition, **Germany commits part of its funding to research and data collection** – be it for such an important publication as the Cluster Munition Monitor, or be it for research in innovation, such as the use of drones for land release activities. With humanitarian budgets, including for mine action, under pressure and increasing needs worldwide, **innovation** to foster safety and efficiency in humanitarian mine action is key.]

Germany is a founding member of the CCM. Germany held the **CCM presidency in 2016** and has subsequently been **engaging in its Committees various times.**

Germany is currently serving – together with Lebanon - as **coordinator on International Cooperation and Assistance of the Convention**. As our assignment comes to an end this year, we would be honoured to continue our engagement as **coordinator on General status and Operation of the Convention** which includes acting as Gender Focal Point for the convention. We have just sent our expression of interest to the ISU.

In accordance with Art. 3 of the Convention, **Germany retains a small quantity of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions for training and research purposes**. In most realistic exercises and trainings, Germany uses cluster munition substitutes to research detection and destruction methods of cluster munitions. There are still some minor cases where the use of cluster munitions substitutes fails to produce accurate training results. However, Germany remains resolute in its pursuit of reducing its cluster munition stockpile by carrying out ongoing research into cluster munition substitutes for realistic training.

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, during four decades, by forces of the former Warsaw Pact. As of June 2023, out of a total

of 11 square kilometres, 6,14 square kilometres have been cleared. 4,86 square kilometers remain to be cleared until August 2025. Around 110 Million EUR have been spent for clearance as of June 2023. **Despite these efforts, various risk factors influence the pace of our clearing operations and put our deadline in August 2025 at risk.** We will provide an update on the efforts as well as the challenges later during this Meeting of States Parties.

Thank you, Mister President.