



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

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

Geneva, 11 - 14 September 2023

Statement by Germany during Item 10 (e) *International Cooperation and Assistance*

Mr. President,

Germany commends the remarkable efforts of all State Parties to the Convention, especially those states whose people still suffer the devastating effects of cluster munition – sometimes decades after their use in conflict. Cooperation and assistance are not only a necessity to reach a world free of cluster munitions but also expression of our strong shared humanitarian convictions. Therefore, **Germany takes its responsibility to assist affected State Parties** in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention very seriously.

In 2022 Germany allocated around 75 Million EUR for the clearance of cluster munition, landmines and other explosive remnants of war as well as for victim assistance and risk

awareness activities, advocacy, and stockpile destruction. This presents an important increase in our funding engagement and is also reflected in **Germany's commitments for this year**: In 2023, Germany is allocating 70 Million EUR for humanitarian mine action alone, including 20 Million EUR for Ukraine.

Priority is given to projects in countries that seek to fulfil their obligations under the Oslo and Ottawa Conventions, as well as the CCW. Thus, Germany continues its **longstanding support** to humanitarian mine action in **for example Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Sudan as well as Somalia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan**. Since 2023, Germany also funds projects by Humanity & Inclusion and Mines Advisory Group in **Lao PDR and Lebanon**. We also continue to support **Peru** in its commitment to destroy its stockpiled cluster munitions.

In addition, **Germany commits part of its funding to 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.

The efficiency of humanitarian mine action as well as the security of our implementing partners depend on strong national frameworks, standards and regulations. We would therefore like to **express our gratitude to the national authorities in affected countries**, recognizing the importance of their work for reaching a world free of cluster munition. Germany supports capacity building for national authorities inter alia through the GICHD and attributes high value to this aspect of humanitarian mine action.

The **collection and presentation of data** on the situation in individual countries and their needs is another important aspect of bringing us closer to our shared goal, as it lays the foundation for directing assistance and support. Germany is very happy to continue its support to the Cluster Munition Monitor and the important work of ICBL-CMC in general.

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

We are ready to continue both our efforts to strengthen the Convention on Cluster Munitions and our financial support for

clearing cluster munition remnants and other explosive remnants of war as well as stockpile destruction.

Thank you, Mr. President.