



12TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Geneva, 10. - 13.09.2024

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

Madame President,

As this is the first time we take the floor, Germany wishes to **thank you, Madam President**, for your able stewardship of the convention. 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. Likewise let me commend the members of the eight Committees for their excellent work over the past period and for their efforts to advance the effective implementation of the Convention.

Germany fully aligns itself with the **statement delivered by the European Union**. Allow me to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Madam President,

the **past 12 months have been challenging months** for our convention, perhaps the most challenging since it came to life. 12 months ago, we welcomed South Sudan and Nigeria as new State Parties to the Convention bringing the number of state parties to 112. Today, instead of welcoming additional members, we must recognize that Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine continues to lead to ongoing use of cluster munitions in Ukraine.

Russia's unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is leading to a deplorable deterioration in Europe's security situation, subsequently also putting pressure on the Convention. Germany strives to further contribute to strengthening and universalizing the Convention which is not only relevant in times of peace, but even more so in times of war.

In this context Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's 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.

Madam President,

The reasons that led to the creation of the convention are as valid today as they were 15 years ago: The use of **cluster munitions continues to inflict devastating harm on civilians during armed conflicts and long after hostilities cease**. Its remnants negatively impact economic and social development often for decades after active fighting has ended.

Consequently, Germany remains fully committed to fulfil its obligations under this Convention and reaffirms its determination to contribute to international efforts towards ending the suffering caused by cluster munitions.

Germany remains gravely concerned by the continued employment of cluster munitions in so many parts of the world and the tremendous human suffering caused. In line with our obligations, we call upon all state and non-state actors to refrain from using cluster munitions and condemn any use of cluster munitions by any actor.

Germany is actively working to **enhance gender and diversity mainstreaming** across the Convention on Cluster Munition. We thank all State Parties who have already endorsed the first cross regional gender statement in the history of the CCM and we invite all State Parties to join as well.

Germany, together with UNIDIR and the other Gender Focal Point Belgium, has also been preparing a working paper “*Taking stock of gender, diversity and inclusion in the Convention on Cluster Munitions: A mid-point review of the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan*”. As of now, we have 34 co-sponsoring states and again we invite all State Parties to join. We are presenting the working paper at a side event on Thursday and you are cordially invited to participate.

Madam President,

Notwithstanding our challenges in universalisation efforts, we **welcome progress in effectively implementing the convention** in other areas. Common international efforts over the past 15 years have contributed to substantial progress in cluster munition clearance and submunitions destruction – two vital areas in order to protect civilians from the indiscriminate and injurious effects of cluster munitions and to address the challenges to social and

economic development posed by uncleared munitions and submunition.

Progress has also been achieved in further reducing remaining stockpiles. Allow me to **congratulate Peru** on its outstanding achievement to destroy all remaining stockpiles. Germany was honoured by the possibility to support Peru in its efforts to arrive at this important success.

Madam President,

Germany remains committed to support State Parties on their efforts towards fulfilling their obligations and implementing the Convention. **We have spent 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, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and South Sudan, empowering national actors for sustainable demining as well as eliminating immediate threats.

Madam President,

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.

Furthermore, 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 2024, out of a total of 11 square kilometres, 7,25 square kilometres have been cleared while 3,75 square kilometers remain to be cleared. So far, we spent over 130 Million EUR for clearance activities. Despite these efforts, various factors continue to hamper the pace of our clearing operations. Consequently, my government has requested a further extension of our clearance deadline which we presented under agenda item 9. Allow me to use this occasion to thank the ISU for its able stewardship in preparing the extension

request and article 5 committee colleagues for the careful and comprehensive consideration.

Madam President,

Germany is a founding member of the CCM. Having held the CCM presidency in 2016, we now continue to engage in its Committees on a regular basis. Currently, we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute as **coordinator on General status and Operation** and to engage as **Gender Focal Point** for the Convention.

I thank you, Madam President.