

**Statement by Italy on behalf of the Analysis Group for  
Article 4 Extension Request by Germany**

Madam President,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Article 4 Analysis Group on the extension request by Germany. The current members of the Analysis Group are the Coordinators for Article 4, Italy and Norway, and the Coordinators for International Cooperation and Assistance, Lebanon and Switzerland. We want to express our gratitude to the ISU and the following organisations that contributed to the work of the Analysis Group: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Mine Action Review, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).

Madam President,

On 21 December 2023, Germany submitted an official request for a five-year extension of its Article 4 deadline through 1 August 2030. On 15 January 2024, the ISU made an initial assessment of Germany's second extension request which was followed by a careful analysis by the Analysis Group and additional details provided by Germany.

Germany's extension request outlines the efforts conducted so far to clear cluster munition remnants and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remnants at the Wittstock site, which spans 11km<sup>2</sup> and remained closed to the public due to intense contamination. The site was noted to be contaminated with various types of UXO, with cluster munition remnants comprising only about 5% of the total contamination.

According to the extension request, the main factors which caused further delay in cleaning cluster munitions include: the number of EOD personnel; the areas available after controlled burning, which is limited to a few days in a year and contingent on meteorological conditions; high contamination levels, including by other ordnance and scrap; adverse weather conditions;

the abundance of material identified; the COVID-19 pandemic; and procurement procedures. Germany further clarifies that specific meteorological conditions, essential for safe burning, occur only a few days per year, typically in February or March, and occasionally in October or November. However, in 2023, suitable conditions were not present, preventing controlled burning for the first time since 2017.

Germany highlights it will continue to monitor these risk factors and adapt work plans accordingly, although many factors are acknowledged to be beyond its control.

Madam President,

The Analysis Group notes with satisfaction that the information provided in the extension request and in the subsequent responses to the questions and comments of the Analysis Group is comprehensive, complete and clear. The Analysis Group also welcomes Germany's commitment to submit an extension request that meets all the criteria outlined in the «Methodology for requests of deadline extensions under Articles 3 and 4» of the Convention. Finally, the Analysis Group notes with appreciation that Germany continued to fully fund the clearance operation from its own sources, eliminating the need for external support.

Madam President,

Given all of this, the Analysis Group recommends that the Meeting grants Germany its request for an extension until 1 August 2030. In granting this request, the Analysis Group notes that the Convention would benefit from Germany reporting annually through its Article 7 reports and at Meetings of State Parties or Review Conferences on the following: progress made on land cleared of cluster submunitions; updated information on the submunitions that have been destroyed; updated information on remaining contamination and plans for the subsequent year and, if possible, also for the following years.

Thank you.