



13TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Geneva, 16. - 19.09.2025

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

Mister President,

As this is the first time we take the floor, Germany wishes to **thank you, Mister President**, for your able stewardship.

Germany would like to assure you of our full cooperation and support for your work.

We would also like to **thank the ISU** for their valuable support to States Parties in fulfilling their obligations. 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.

It is also with great pleasure that we welcome the Republic of Vanuatu as a new State Party to the Convention. Welcome to the family!

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

Mister President,

The **Convention on Cluster Munitions** remains an important element of the humanitarian arms control architecture as well as of international humanitarian law. Yet, due to the unjustifiable and unprovoked illegal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, we are meeting at a time when even humanitarian arms control instruments are facing a growing number of challenges. It is very clear that it has become more important than ever to **bolster humanitarian arms control conventions, in times of peace and times of war**. Today, our responsibility to work towards defending, strengthening and implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to fight against cluster munitions worldwide is higher than ever.

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. To this end, Germany served as a Coordinator on General Status and Operation and as a Gender Focal Point from 2023-2025.

The use of cluster munitions **continues to inflict devastating harm on civilians** during armed conflicts and long after hostilities cease. According to the Cluster Munition Monitor 2025, civilians account for a large share of all cluster munition casualties, and children accounted for 42% of all recorded casualties in 2024. We are deeply concerned by the tremendous human suffering caused by cluster munition, and by the negative impact this weapon has on economic and social development often for decades after active fighting has ended. In line with our obligations under the convention, 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.

Mister President,

Germany remains committed to **supporting gender and diversity mainstreaming** across the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We are honoured to having served as a Gender Focal Point over the

last two years and thank all States Parties who have supported our work, such as the first cross regional gender statement in the history of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the 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*”, both of which were published at the 12th Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in September 2024. We remain dedicated to further strengthening gender and diversity mainstreaming and wish the new gender focal points every success.

Mister President,

Germany remains steadfast in supporting States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and implementing the priorities of the Lausanne Action Plan. **In 2024, Germany has spent 70 million EUR for the clearance of cluster munition, mines and other explosive remnants of war, keeping support at the same level as in 2023.** Our funds have been used to provide prostheses to accident survivors, educate school children and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) about the risks of unexploded

ordnance (UXO) as well as for transparency efforts on behalf of the Conventions.

Our implementation **emphasizes the Lausanne Action Plan's core pillars** through targeted projects in a wide range of contexts such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and South Sudan – to name just a few. We encourage all affected States Parties to strengthen their national ownership by **integrating the implementation of the Convention and the Action Plan into broader national development frameworks and enhancing institutional capacities, as outlined in Action 1 of the Lausanne Action Plan**. Through continued partnership with civil society organizations, UN agencies, and multilateral coordination mechanisms, we can jointly ensure that humanitarian mine action remains a shared responsibility that delivers safer lives for affected communities worldwide.

Mister 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.

Mister President,

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. The current deadline for clearance is August 1st, 2030. In 2024, Germany was able to increase its clearing capacity by 39% compared to 2023. This resulted in a total clearance of 1.21 square kilometres, exceeding the target for 2024. This favourable result was possible due to continuity regarding personnel, increased use of machinery, and favourable weather conditions. However, the re-tendering of the work required by legislation might lead to a reduction in clearance capacity in the future, depending on the outcome of the tender.

Support structures and training have already been prepared to help minimize this potential impact. As of June 2025, 8.325 square kilometres have been cleared out of a total of 11 square kilometres. 2.675 square kilometers remain to be cleared. By the end of 2024 we spent over 143 Million EUR for clearance activities. Allow me to use this occasion to thank the ISU for its able stewardship and article 5 committee colleagues for the careful and comprehensive monitoring.

Mister President,

Germany is a **founding member** of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Having held the **Convention on Cluster Munitions Presidency in 2016**, Germany remains committed to the Convention, to its obligations under the Convention, and reaffirms its determination to actively contribute to international efforts towards ending the tremendous suffering caused by cluster munitions.

I thank you, Mister President.