

German National Statement at APMBC Inter-sessional Meeting on 8./9. June 2017

- Germany fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU
- Speaking on behalf of Germany I would like to announce the following major national developments and activities in terms of mine action since the 15.MSP in Santiago.
- Germany has significantly increased its contributions to mine action in 2016: 27 projects in 13 countries or regions have been funded with close to 18 million euros, covering the whole spectrum of humanitarian mine action, from risk education, victim assistance, survey and clearance to local capacity building and advocacy. Additionally, Germany has provided an additional 15 million euros for the clearance of improvised landmines and booby traps in support of its stabilization efforts for Iraq, bringing the total German contribution to about 33 million euros.
- Germany aims to maintain this funding level in 2017 and to continue assisting other member states in fulfilling their obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.
- One major challenge is the increasing use of improvised landmines and booby traps - especially in the Middle East, but also in Afghanistan, Libya and in Eastern Ukraine. Germany is closely working with the affected countries, our implementing partners and with other donors to face this challenge.
- As the Presidency of the CCM Germany has together with the AUT Presidency in the APMBC facilitated a closer and more structured inter-conventional cooperation on practical over-arching humanitarian and economic issues like victims' assistance and land release. On the latter we successfully and jointly with GICHD and AUT organized and funded a respective event yesterday.
- Furthermore, GER has also initiated a more structured interaction between donors and countries in need of victims' and land release assistance in the form of so called country coalitions. A first seminar on this subject took place in Bangkok in March 2017 in an open setting allowing for both land mine and cluster munition affected states to participate. A follow up seminar is scheduled for next week at RACVIAC in Croatia.