

**Statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Intersessionals of the Ottawa Convention, 3 to 7 February 2003, Geneva**

Dear Co-Chairs, dear Co-Rapporteurs

In 2002, Germany increased its funding for mine action by almost 70%: All in all, German support to mine action amounted to a total of **19,1 Mio. EUR (20,64 Mio. USD)** in 2002. These funds were used to support worldwide activities in the fields of humanitarian demining, mine-risk education and victims' assistance and did not include research & development activities. In total, the German mine action funds were used to support 72 projects in 17 countries of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me emphasize that our biggest effort in 2002 was in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is among the countries worst affected by mines in the world and in view of hundreds of thousands of returning refugees and food insecurity mine clearance remains an important humanitarian task in this country. The German contribution to mine action in Afghanistan totalled 6,4 Mio. EUR (6,96 Mio. USD) in 2002. In addition, we made available German technical experts to the Mine Action Programme in Afghanistan to train Afghan deminers how to clear cluster bombs.

In 2003, we have taken over the chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) in New York where major donors meet with UN-Organisations working in the field of mine action. Resource mobilization for mine action is one major purpose of these meetings of donor countries to which the German chairmanship will also be fully devoted to.