Statement on the national implementation of Article 3
of the Ottawa-Convention

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to the statement made by the secr. of

The Nairobi Action Plan notes that “transparency and the open exchange of
information have been essential pillars on which the Convention’s practices,
procedures and tradition of partnership have been built.” In accordance with
Action # 54 of the Nairobi Action Plan aiming at transparency in implementing
Article 3 of the Ottawa-Convention on retained mines, and in addition to our
annual Article 7 information, I would like to share with you the following
information.

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Ottawa Convention, Germany has set itself an upper
ceiling of 3,000 antipersonnel mines # to the maximum. These stocks of APM,
clearly earmarked and stored for non-operational purposes, are regarded as
necessary for the effective continuation and improvement of the protection of
our deployed soldiers against antipersonnel mines. Considering possible threats
in the Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) current and potential theatres of
worldwide operations under international mandate, only an adequate amount of
different types of antipersonnel mines will ensure the required testing and
training capabilities. Actually, there are 2,388 antipersonnel mines in German
training and testing stocks.

The available antipersonnel mines-pool enables a cost-saving and efficient
execution of technical examinations in the area of Force Protection. Due to the
International Test and Evaluation Program for Humanitarian Demining (ITEP),
many efforts have been undertaken to test and evaluate mine action equipments,
systems and technologies. Nevertheless, efforts have to be continued in order to
develop field equipment and tools based on realistic and future needs for the
Federal Armed Forces.

In 2007, German Armed Forces have used 90 antipersonnel mines for testing
purposes. 14 mines have been used for vehicle mine protection programs, 20
mines were used for mine clearance equipment testing and 56 mines were
demilitarized during ammunition surveillance.

All together since 1998, Germany has used up a total of 685 antipersonnel mines
for testing. For training purposes, German Armed Forces are using dummies.

Storage is carried out at the Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre 91 (WTD
91). Transfers of antipersonnel mines for training and experimental purposes to
other offices, e.g. to Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre for Explosives and Special Technologies (WTD 52) or Federal Armed Forces School of Dog Handling is carried out exclusively with the consent and under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

At the moment, Germany is undertaking a study to elaborate if a special testfield could be set up in Germany for testing multiple sensor mine detection and search systems. If this project can be realized it is envisaged to also offer these facilities for testing procedures to NATO Member States as well as to Partners in the International Test and Evaluation Programme for Humanitarian Demining.

We will keep States Parties informed on the development of these projects.

Thank you for your attention