



Permanent Representation  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

*Meetings of the Standing Committees of the APLC  
21 - 25 June 2010, Geneva*

**Statement Cooperation and Assistance  
25 June 2010**

Madame President, Distinguished Representatives and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

By any standard, the Ottawa Convention is a remarkable achievement not only in international disarmament but also in international humanitarian law and in humanitarian and development cooperation. The Convention has become a matchless success story since it opened for signature. After the second review conference in 2009 the Cartagena Action Plan is our guide for fulfilling our obligations as laid down in the Ottawa Convention within the next five years.

The German Government has been involved actively in the anti-personnel mine ban process since the mid nineties and we will stay appropriately committed to meeting our obligations in support of the universalisation and implementation of the Convention as specified in Article 6.

Our commitment has been confirmed by the some 183.5 million Euros, we have granted bilaterally to 42 mine affected countries so far. This figure does not include our commitments to helping developing countries as part of our development cooperation policy, and does not include our share of about 20 % of the European Union's funds disbursed for mine action.

In 2010 some 16.3 million Euro will be granted bilaterally to 20 countries worldwide.

As for Germany, all affected regions are equally important. Our commitment is not driven by political interest but exclusively by humanitarian aspects. However, our mine action funding is directed with strong preference to States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions as well as CCW Protocol V..

Germany does not distinguish between clearance of mines, cluster munitions or ERW as in reality in the field most mine clearance operations address all these hazards, thus responding at the same time to the obligations for cooperation and assistance from the Ottawa Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions as well as CCW Protocol V. The same is true for our support provided for the victims caused by all kinds of munitions under the Conventions mentioned before.

Mine action budgets are possible to decline in the future due to other urgent global tasks. In addition, the economic and financial crisis is likely to have a noticeable impact on future mine action funding. As a consequence a shift in thinking is urgently required. Governments of affected countries need to demonstrate that they are taking their Mine Ban Convention obligations seriously and that they are prepared to take determined steps towards national ownership. Building efficient and sustainable local capacities is of the utmost importance, since the responsibility for mine action lies primarily with the affected States. In the long term, national ownership is the key to success of our Convention.

Germany fully supports the efforts for an increased focus on international cooperation and assistance in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan. Therefore Germany is ready to discuss the establishment of a new Standing Committee on this issue in the broader context of reforming the Intersessional Work Programme, but also look at other ways to reach this increased focus. The overall aims should include the improvement of the coordination among

the donor countries and the channeling of the funding available to the countries where it is most needed, as well as assisting all efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the country programmes. In view of potentially shrinking overall funds available, there is an increased need to make best use of possible synergies – within the Convention and across different Instruments of International Humanitarian Law.

Germany will stay committed to mine action based on the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan and will remain a reliable partner for affected States in the future. However, in the light of a possible global decline of mine action budgets we call on all parties concerned to consider an adjustment to the changing general set-up in order to achieve the vision of world free from the impact of anti-personnel mines.

Thank you very much for your attention.