



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office

**13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES  
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION (“OTTAWA CONVENTION”)**

Geneva, 2–6 December 2013

**General Statement by Germany**

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention and thank you, the former presidency and the coordinators for the preparation of this meeting and the excellent work carried out during the past year.

I align myself with the statement of the European Union.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction has been and will remain a landmark treaty in international humanitarian law. Its effective implementation is crucial in order to protect civilians from the devastating effects of anti-personnel mines.

We are concerned about the alleged use of anti-personnel mines in a number of countries. Therefore, we – the States Parties – must step up our efforts to promote universalization. In this spirit, we welcome the accession of Poland as the 161<sup>st</sup> State Party at the end of last year.

Mr. President,

Germany complies with the Ottawa Convention and has completed the destruction of its anti-personnel mine stocks prior to the entry into force of the convention in 1999. The number of retained anti-personnel mines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques, permitted under Article 3 of the Convention, has been further reduced to 2,111.

I am pleased to inform you that Germany was able to withdraw its request of April 2013 for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of possible anti-personnel mines on an area of 10,000 square meters on a former military training area of the Soviet Armed Forces that was suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. Following historical research on available information about the suspected area, a technical survey using geomagnetic methods, and physical clearance of sample areas have been completed. The clearance of sample areas did not confirm the suspicion of an anti-personnel mine contamination. Our delegation will present the results of the survey under agenda item 11b.

Germany is privileged to provide substantial humanitarian assistance for mine clearance in over 21 countries, focusing on anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other types of unexploded ordnance. It also sponsors through the *Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining* awareness raising and educational campaigns for civilians. As a member of the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities, Germany helps to address the special needs of persons with disabilities, including survivors of explosions. Germany provides victims assistance in 12 countries. A gender based approach is part of all our humanitarian activities, thus fostering the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the United Nations.

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *International Campaign to Ban Landmines* in 2012, Germany had financed an exhibition developed by the *ICBL*, the *Cluster Munition Coalition* and the German NGOs *Handicap International*, *SODI* and *medico international* about the devastating effects of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. In 2013 this exhibition was shown at the UN premises in New York and Geneva, thus raising even more awareness of our common work.

Mr. President,

we are looking forward to the Third Review Conference in Maputo next year and will engage constructively in the preparation of the Maputo Action Plan.

Please let me ensure you of our full cooperation in your work.