

**17TH 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**

Geneva, 26- 30 November 2018

Item 7: General Exchange of Views

(check with delivery)

Mr. President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and I would like to make a few comments in a national capacity.

We are grateful to Afghanistan to take on the task as president of this Meeting of States Parties and for steering our deliberations to strengthen the Convention. As one of the most affected countries by landmines your country's leadership of our convention is a testament to how far we have come and how essential it is to further strengthen the norm against anti-personnel mines.

We would also like to commend the Coordinators for their excellent work over the past year and for their efforts to advance the effective implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.

This Convention is a cornerstone of the international humanitarian law and it is an indispensable instrument for our common fight against anti-personnel mines

worldwide. This year we celebrate 20 years of the *Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention* which succeeded in establishing a new international norm and a complete ban of the use of APMs. The progress achieved is remarkable:

- More than 53 Million anti-personnel mines (APM) destroyed.
- Global stocks are under 50 Million and the trade in industrially manufactured APM is practically stopped.
- Forty-one states have ceased the production of APM, including four that are not part of the convention.
- The convention mobilized substantial funds to implement its obligations:
- My own country that had already destroyed its stockpiles of about 1,7 Mio APM before the conventions entry into force, as one of the major donors contributed some 36 Mio EUR in 2018.
- We also managed to universalize the norms of the convention: starting with 122 States Parties that membership increased to 164 with some additional states adhering to most of the key provisions without accession.

We call upon all states to stop producing, stockpiling or using APMs.

In spite of this success, this does not mean we have no tasks left as far as landmines are concerned. With the Maputo Action Plan we set ourselves the ambitious goal of fulfilling our obligations under the Convention by 2025 and especially in the field of clearance and destruction there is substantial work

ahead of us, notably as fallout from conflicts which have arisen after the MAP was adopted.

In this context, Germany has maintained a high level of financial support for mine action projects around the world. In 2018 Germany has provided 36 million Euros for projects in 13 countries and regions. German-funded activities focused on the whole spectrum of mine action: survey and clearance of landmines, including improvised landmines, and ERW; mine risk education; mine victim assistance; and advocacy.

Another challenge is the growing prevalence of IED's. For Germany it is important to highlight that a major part of IED's – those that are victim activated – fall under the purview of this convention. Yet other types might fall under other international instruments such as the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons. In order to avoid duplication of efforts coordination is essential, this applies also to the convention on cluster munitions.

Germany is currently in the process of updating its Strategy for Humanitarian Mine Action to better reflect the changes that have taken place both within the sector itself and with regard to the increase in global demand for support in mine action. The new strategy will maintain a dual focus on acute humanitarian crises and on countries where we need to intensify our joint efforts in order to “finish the job”. Membership in and adherence to the obligations under the Ottawa Convention will be one key criteria for the selection of priority countries for the new strategy.

Germany recognizes the special situation that Ukraine faces especially in its territory not under its control. So we highly appreciate that despite those circumstances Ukraine managed to provide the Meeting of States Parties with an

extension request for its article 5 obligations. That was a difficult step to take and we congratulate Ukraine on its achievement.

Another important aspect of the Convention's work is to create transparency. We encourage all States Parties to provide their national reports to the ISU in order to be able to assess the progress of the implementation.

Germany would like to thank the ISU for their support to States Parties and would like to underline the need for every State Party to pay their contributions so that we can work towards a world free of APMs.

Thank you Mr. President.