

GERMANY

Statement by

**H. E. AMBASSADOR
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
GENEVA**

**AT THE 8TH MEETING
OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITIONS OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION**

Jordan, 18 NOVEMBER 2007

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the German Delegation, I would like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Jordan, and in particular His Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid for hosting this important conference. As Jordan and Germany have closely cooperated in humanitarian mine action for many years, we are very pleased to renew our friendly ties with your hospitable country.

We fully subscribe to the Statement submitted in writing by the European Union and would like to add the following remarks.

The Mine Ban Treaty on the eve of its 10th anniversary can be hailed as a success story as regards both international disarmament as well as humanitarian and development cooperation. Its 155 States Parties as well as almost all other states have understood its fundamental message: Anti-personnel landmines are a scourge of the past, they still cause pains in the present and they have no future.

The German Government has been actively involved in the anti-personnel landmine ban movement since the mid nineties and remains committed to supporting the universalization and full implementation of the Convention.

We welcome latest figures which lead to the conclusion that a world without the impact of anti-personnel landmines seems achievable in years rather than in decades.

However, more efforts are required in order to fully eradicate anti-personnel landmines. According to the Landmine Monitor Report 2007, forty countries outside the Mine Ban Treaty still possess a total of 160 million anti-personnel landmines and 10 States Parties still have some 14 million stockpiled anti-personnel landmines remaining to be destroyed.

Germany has committed some 205 million USD bilaterally to 42 mine affected countries thus far. In addition, our share of the European Commission budget for mine action amounts to another 84 million USD. As a major donor Germany wishes to underline that it does not distinguish between mine and ERW clearance. Field experience shows that most mine clearance operations address both hazards thus responding to the obligations posed both by the Mine Ban Treaty as well as by the CCW Protocol V.

For the year 2008 I am pleased to announce that Germany will be significantly increasing its contribution to mine action. Our contributions for mine action shall rise by 30 per cent from 20 Mio USD in 2007 to 26 Mio USD in 2008.

Mr Chairman,

Germany will stay committed to mine action in the near future.

However, keeping in mind the imminent challenges faced at the global level, it is reasonable to expect that the general availability of funds to tackle mine related issues will decrease in the years to come. Therefore we call on all concerned to consider an adjustment to the changing general set-up of mine action programmes world-wide.

So far, mine action is still characterized by externally managed mechanisms and structures and mainly dominated by international organizations. With a view on future realities, building of efficient and sustainable local capacities is of the utmost importance. The responsibility for Mine Action lies primarily within the affected countries.

We would like to encourage these States to be more determined in taking steps towards national ownership. In the long term national ownership is the key to success of the Convention and to a sustainable effect of outside assistance. Such cooperation will ensure that we will reach our common goal of a world free from the impact of anti-personnel landmines.

Thank you.